



## Kabul rebels fire at planes

KABUL (AP) — Dissident rebels Sunday tried to shoot down two civilian jetliners as they took off from the city's airport, the government said. Defence Ministry sources said as many as 30 rockets fell around the joint military-civilian airport as the Ariana Airlines planes departed for Peshawar, Pakistan, and New Delhi, India. Some missiles also slammed into the grounds of the presidential palace in central Kabul, but no one was injured or killed, according to the sources. President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government blamed forces loyal to Hezb-e-Islami, a faction that has threatened to down any civilian airliner arriving or leaving Kabul. The threat prompted the government to ground all Ariana flights for nearly two weeks. Sunday's attack was the heaviest in Kabul since Rabbani's re-election, claiming it was rigged, and threatened to resume the civil war that has already left the nation in ruins.

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# U.S. hits Baghdad with cruise missiles

## Defiant Saddam says battle far from over on second anniversary of Gulf war

### Iraqi jet downed in north; Baghdad alters compromise offer, abandons police posts

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES launched another attack on Iraq Sunday, two years to the day after the Gulf war began in the allied effort to force Baghdad to relinquish Kuwait.

Bursts of anti-aircraft fire lit up the night sky over the Iraqi capital after days of confrontation over U.N. "no-fly" zones and enforcement of U.N. resolutions. The attack, during President George Bush's final week in office, followed a series of skirmishes in the aerial exclusion zones, including one in which an Iraqi plane was shot down in northern Iraq earlier Sunday. It followed what appeared to be Iraqi concessions on two issues of contention — U.N. flights to Iraq and a series of border posts now inside what the U.N. considers as Kuwait.

Officials in Washington said the attack included Tomahawk cruise

missile launched against an alleged Iraqi nuclear weapons development target near Baghdad.

That was intended "to ensure that Iraq never again acquires weapons of mass destruction," White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said.

"United States Tomahawk cruise missiles today attacked a nuclear fabrication plant near Baghdad, Iraq, which is part of its weapons of mass destruction programme. This plant made components for Iraq's nuclear enrichment programme, including parts of its electro-magnetic isotope separation which Iraq has used in its programme to create nuclear weapons," Mr. Fitzwater told reporters at the White House.

Mr. Fitzwater said he did not know if the attack on the Zaafaraniyah nuclear site — the second Western attack on Iraq in the last five days — had destroyed the facility.

The spokesman would not say how many of the cruise missiles were launched or from where they originated but television reports said 40

were launched from naval vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf.

No U.S. aircraft were involved in the attack, Mr. Fitzwater said. Cable News Network (CNN) broadcast live scenes of anti-aircraft guns going off in the night sky, much like the night two years ago when the Gulf war began. Explosions could be heard in the background. The guns fell silent after about half an hour.

Later, CNN reported that what one witness described as "a rocket" had struck the Al Rasheed Hotel, the home of Western journalists in Baghdad, and that a civilian female kitchen employee had been killed. Three others were injured.

One witness said "huge great balls of smoke" could be seen near the Baghdad Conference Palace — which is still being repaired after being hit by the Gulf war.

Witnesses said that the presidential palace on the banks of the Tigris River had been sealed off.

President Bush was still at his Camp David, Maryland, retreat with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Mr. Fitzwater said there had been numerous consultations between the administration and a representative of President-elect Bill Clinton who was due to arrive in Washington later Sunday for festivities leading up to Wednesday's inauguration.



Thousands of Iraqis Sunday stage a defiant demonstration on the second anniversary of the start of the Gulf war (AFP photo)

Speaking on U.S. television, Clinton spokesman George Stephanopoulos said: "Saddam Hussein must comply with U.N. resolutions. He must abide with

international standards. If he doesn't he will have to pay the consequences."

Mr. Stephanopoulos said Mr. Clinton "will do what is necessary to

enforce United Nations resolutions." Iraqi President Saddam Hussein read a brief statement on Baghdad television and radio in which he called for retaliation saying "strike them;

this is the day of confrontation." The speech appeared to be meant as a signal that President Saddam, who had been meeting with his commanders, was unharmed in the attack.

"Attack them wherever you find them. God and his agents and believers will be satisfied with you," said the Iraqi leader.

"Attack them. God is with you. Glory to our martyrs. Long live Iraq, symbol of the mujahideen."

A statement from London said Prime Minister John Major's government "fully supported" the missile attack. The French defence ministry said France did not take part and that it was "an American operation."

Earlier, the United States said an American jet shot down an Iraqi plane in the "no-fly" zone of northern Iraq, as President Saddam threatened a "final and decisive chapter" in his conflict with the West.

"The aggressors will fail in their evil purposes this time again," President Saddam said in a defiant speech marking the second anniversary of the start of the Gulf war.

Mr. Fitzwater confirmed that an American F-16 jet had downed an Iraqi MIG-29 over the zone set up in 1991.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the Iraqi plane was shot down as it

### 'Missiles did not hit nuclear site'

THE CRUISE missiles fired at Baghdad hit a mechanical engineering plant and not a nuclear site, Cable News Network (CNN) quoted an Iraqi statement as saying Sunday.

The network said the statement, from the Iraqi Information Ministry, said the plant makes molds and dies. The White House said earlier that the plant, 20 kilometres from Baghdad, was a nuclear fabrication plant which made components for nuclear weapons.

At least three people were killed during the aerial attack on the Iraqi capital, a hospital doctor said.

"I know of three dead and 19 wounded in my hospital alone," doctor Fawzan Al Naim, head of surgery at Baghdad's Yarmouk Hospital, told Reuters.

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### Tourabi denies army council to go soon

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's Islamic leader Hassan Tourabi has denied saying his country's military rulers will step down soon, a suggestion which caused unease among government officials and set Khartoum buzzing with speculation. In a statement carried by government newspapers and broadcast on radio and television, Mr. Tourabi said Reuters misquoted him when it reported him as saying the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) would dissolve itself in a matter of weeks or months. "I explained that the RCC has remained a symbol of the revolution... and is a guarantee of the constitutional destiny (which) will carry out its function and finish its term. I did not estimate this in months," Dr. Tourabi said in the statement.

### Sharaa visits Italy

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa left for Rome Sunday on a three-day official visit to urge Italian and Vatican officials to increase their role in the Middle East peace process. In a departure statement, Mr. Sharaa said he would brief his Italian counterpart, Emilio Colombo, Pope John Paul II and other leaders on Syria's stand on various developments in the region.

### UAE paid \$10 b in Gulf war costs

ABU DHABI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates paid 35 billion dirhams (nearly \$10 billion) as its contribution towards the cost of the Gulf war, according to a central bank report released Sunday. It was the first official account of the federation's expenditure on the crisis. The central bank said the country paid 14.2 billion dirhams (\$3.86 billion) in 1990 and 20.8 billion dirhams (\$5.66 billion) in 1991. The overall costs included aid to Arab and foreign countries to compensate them for economic losses caused by the crisis and spending on the military and humanitarian assistance, the report said, without providing a breakdown.

### Rally held in support of Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A public rally was held Sunday at the Palace of Culture in Amman to voice support for Iraq and to call for an end to the embargo imposed on Iraq by the U.N. since its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Participants in the rally, which was held to mark the start of the Gulf war, called on the Arab Nation to unite and heal rifts. Speakers criticised the West's "double standards" in implementing U.N. Security Council Resolutions.

## Musa makes little headway in efforts to end expulsion crisis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa Sunday proposed compromises to defuse the crisis over the expelled Palestinians, but his meetings with Israeli leaders apparently ended inconclusively.

The Egyptian proposals "have been met with an open mind," Mr. Musa said after a one-hour talk with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "With this I don't mean I want to say that the prime minister has accepted this or that idea."

Mr. Rabin implied there was no breakthrough. "Certain ideas were brought by the foreign minister. As you know the government of Israel sticks to its

resolutions, to its decisions."

Mr. Rabin said at a joint news conference with Mr. Musa.

Neither gave details. However, Mr. Musa quashed speculation that Egypt would take the evictees until their two-year term of exile is up, saying: "What we are working for is for them to return, not to come to Egypt."

Israel expelled 415 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Dec. 17.

The group is stranded in a tent camp in South Lebanon.

The expulsions have been condemned worldwide, and the U.N. Security Council has demanded the men be repatriated.

Domestic opposition also remains vigorous. On Sunday, civil

rights attorneys argued before a seven-judge supreme court panel that the evictees' rights were violated because the government expelled them in haste, sidestepping normal appeals procedures.

Attorney General Yosef Harish countered that the men were given the right to appeal retroactively and that 16 expelled in error can return immediately.

Foreign legal experts in attendance said Mr. Harish was implying the population was not entitled to protection under the Geneva convention on treatment of civilians in occupied territory.

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## Evictees mark one month in exile

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinians expelled by Israel marked their first month of exile in southern Lebanon Sunday by marching towards Israeli lines and staging a protest sit-in.

Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Gaza Strip physician who is the men's spokesman, said after the evictees returned to their camp: "The march... symbolises our rejection of the expulsion orders and our determination to return home."

The Israelis in their self-designated "security zone," an occupied border strip, fired on the evictees when they staged a similar march last month, wounding four.

There was no shooting this time. But there was also no sign of a breakthrough in the impasse between Lebanon and Israel over the men's plight.

The Palestinians were expelled by Israel Dec. 17 in ostensible retaliation for the slaying of six Israeli troops by suspected Muslim fundamentalists.

Israel accuses the men, all from the occupied West Bank and Gaza, being supporters of the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements.

Lebanon, saying it will not become a "dumping ground" for Palestinians expelled by Israel, refused to accept the men.

Israel refuses to take them back, even though the mass expulsions has jeopardised the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks.

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## Deputies raise uproar over American attacks on Iraq

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Lower House of Parliament Sunday described the Jan. 13 U.S. air strike against Iraq and the House entrusted its Foreign Affairs Committee with drafting a statement condemning what some deputies described as "barbarous aggression" aimed at stifling the rebuilding process in the war-ravaged country.

The House also decided to convene a special session to discuss deputies' demands that Jordan withdraw from the Arab-Israeli peace talks and Parliament

protest the U.S. air raid on Iraq at international organisations as well as a call on the Arab League to initiate reconciliatory efforts among Arab states.

The decision came after many deputies made strong statements in support of Iraq and characterised the United States as the major enemy of the Arab World.

Calling on the House to condemn "the barbarous aggression on Iraq," Deputy Fares Al Nabulsi contrasted the swiftness of American action towards Iraq with Washington's silence on Israel's violation of United Nations Security Council resolution demanding the repatriation of over 400 Palestinians it expelled on Dec. 17.

Deputy Hani Al Shiyah proposed that the House issue a statement exposing the "double standards" of the United States, which, he said, launched the attack on Iraq without Security Council authorisation.

"The statement should condemn the United States' position on the (Palestinian) evictees," he said, pointing to U.S. threats to veto any U.N. move to activate Article VII of its charter and enforce sanctions on Israel for refusing to abide by Security Council Resolution 799 on the expelled Palestinians.

Saying that the United States is the "obvious enemy" of the Arabs, Deputy Hussein Mijalli questioned the viability of continuing the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdullah Al Akaileh demanded that

(Continued on page 2)

## Communist Party gets licence

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior Sunday granted a licence to the Jordanian Communist Party after it "pledged full compliance with the Jordanian Constitution and laws," Interior Minister Jawdat Sbou announced.

Last month, the ministry rejected the party's application for official recognition, saying its ideology and aims were incompatible with the Kingdom's Constitution.

Over the last three weeks, political parties and human rights organisations have protested the ministry decision and urged the government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to officially recognise the Communist Party.

"We were informed that our party will be licensed," said

Yacoub Zayadin, general secretary of the party.

Dr. Zayadin said he had resolved "misunderstanding" over his party's platform during talks with the government.

"They were concerned about some articles in the party's constitution but it is no longer a problem," Dr. Zayadin said.

Jordan has so far licensed six parties since it lifted a three-decade-old ban on political parties last year. The new law requires prospective parties to have no foreign organisational and financial links and to respect the Monarchy, the Constitution and recognition of Islam as the state religion.

The communists, banned for four decades, came out of the shadows under a new law permit-

ting a multi-party system.

It took effect Sept. 1. Apart from the state-controlled economic system espoused by the communists, which is at odds with Jordan's entrepreneurial system, their secular Marxist philosophy is also out of step with a constitutional provision that stipulates Islam as the state religion.

Dr. Zayadin said: "We're content with the ministry's decision."

He said the party was legalised after several meetings with a ministerial committee headed by Sharif Zeid.

Last month, the Ministry of Interior rejected applications for licences by two leftist groups — because their manifestos were also considered at odds with the Kingdom's Constitution and laws.

## Jordanian businessman denies role in alleged BNL-Iraq scam

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian businessman who has been mentioned as a possible key player in alleged Iraqi exploitation of billions of dollars in U.S. government-guaranteed credit to procure weapons has denied any involvement in the case, saying that he has been turned into a scapegoat of internal American politics.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Wafai Dajani, who operates a conglomerate of commodity trading and shipping agents based in Amman, categorically rejected suggestions in the American and British media that he was the middleman between the Iraqi government and the scandal-

plagued Atlanta branch of the Rome-based Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL).

BNL Atlanta is under investigation and its ex-manager Christopher Drogoul is on trial for allegedly channelling up to \$5 billion in American credits — mostly through the Department of Agriculture — to arming Iraq during the latter part of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

The Wall Street Journal, in an article published last month, quoted one of the investigators as describing Mr. Dajani as "everyone's middleman," a charge which Mr. Dajani dismisses outright. "I am not a middleman," Mr. Dajani told the Jordan Times in Amman. "I am a businessman who works purely in shipping and

transportation."

The 56-year-old businessman says that he became involved in U.S. agricultural aid to Iraq programme in 1984 when he went to Washington to discuss how the wheat would be shipped. "It became very clear that I had to know both sides."

Mr. Dajani has been named by the independent counsel investigation report of the BNL case, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times, as an "unindicted co-conspirator in the action."

The BNL-Atlanta case is based on an argument that Mr. Drogoul was personally involved in a massive scam under which American wheat and rice were shipped to Aqaba for onward transportation to Iraq

but were diverted to Russia, which in turn sent tanks and weapons to Iraq.

But the Jordanian businessman argued that he was in no way involved in any such deal and that his role in the affair was strictly within the confines of transporting American, Canadian and Australian imports, obtained on credit, to Iraq.

"I was accused by the press of arms dealing," Mr. Dajani said, adding that he "was never presented with any substantial evidence about alleged misdeeds." He stressed that his books "here in Amman or anywhere else are open for full scrutiny by any government agency."

The Wall Street Journal's report pointed to Mr. Dajani

as the man with "too many footprints in the messy BNL affair." It quoted Democratic Representative Henry B. Gonzalez of Texas, chairman of the House of Representatives Banking Committee, as saying that "he suspected that Mr. Dajani somehow diverted U.S. commodity shipments to Russia, where he bartered them for tanks for Iraq."

Mr. Dajani asked why the U.S. government would not investigate these allegations with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin's administration directly. "As the Yeltsin regime is very friendly with the U.S., why not ask the Russians about diversion of the wheat to Russia in exchange for arms?"

As for Mr. Gonzalez's statements, Mr. Dajani said the

Democratic representative "has a personal vendetta against (U.S. President George) Bush and (White House Chief of Staff James) Baker." Mr. Dajani contended that Rep. Gonzalez' interest in indicting was part of a political tug-of-war with the Republican administration just before November's U.S. presidential elections.

"Unfortunately, the conflict (between the U.S. and Iraq) polarised the tension and gave an opportunity to the Democrats to use the deals to hit at the Bush administration," Mr. Dajani said.

He also accused some columnists and reporters in the Western media of working for Israeli interests. They do so by "tarnishing the image of a suc-

cessful Arab," he maintained. He named New York Times columnist William Safire, who "represents the Israeli extreme right," as one of the main people working against him. "He has gone all the way to make this story far bigger than what it really is."

Prosecutors in the BNL-Atlanta case did not indict Mr. Dajani for lack of evidence against him. In response to questioning by Congress over this decision, however, the prosecutors said that "if the ongoing investigation produces additional evidence against Dajani, the decision not to charge Dajani can be revisited."

The prosecutors, in their (Continued on page 5)



## U.N. food saves Somali village from starvation

BU'ALE, Somalia (R) — U.N. food drops have staved off starvation from this remote Somali village, isolated for months by floods, mines and clan warfare.

"It's a success story. We are sustaining the population, but it's not enough," said Geoff Lewis, emergency officer for the World Food Programme (WFP), on a visit to Bu'ale Saturday.

"There is no chronic malnourishment here, but there is malaria, scabies, other infections and some malnutrition."

Only mangoes were abundant in the few stalls doing business in Bu'ale market, but small quantities of wheat, red beans, tea, coffee beans, salt and vegetable oil were also on sale.

The WFP, a U.N. agency, dropped 21 tonnes of wheat in December and another 54 tonnes earlier this month to the 5,000 people remaining in Bu'ale and three nearby villages.

The aidrops should tide them over until they can harvest crops of maize and sorghum in two weeks' time.

Residents said three-quarters of Bu'ale's original population of 5,000 had already left, trudging through the thornbush scrub in search of food in distant towns.

"We ate mangoes for breakfast, dinner and supper," said Jamal Bashir, a merchant. "Children and old people were dying."

Mr. Bashir, like most people here, currently has no work. "No money, no car, no food — no business," he explained.

When Mr. Lewis surveyed Bu'ale on Dec. 1, he found people with nothing to eat but unripe mangoes, weeds and roots.

Now better-fed, the villagers clustered round, smiling and joking as Mr. Lewis tasted a root. "A bit like raw potato," he said.

Virtually all the concrete buildings in Bu'ale are roofless hulks, devastated by fighting and looting.

Villagers live in thatched mud huts. About 200 displaced nomads have built a settlement on the outskirts, scavenging cardboard and corrugated iron to make crude shelters.

Scores of them wandered out to greet Mr. Lewis when he landed with reporters in a small U.N. plane on a baboon-infested dirt airfield zone cleared from the bush by villagers.

Good rains have helped the sorghum stems grow to a healthy two metres high. Some came from local seed and some from Tanzanian varieties donated by the International Committee of the Red Cross in September.

Mr. Lewis hopes the farmers will trade their surplus local grain for WFP-provided cooking oil. Before the next planting season the agency would redistribute the grain stock to other lower Juba villages which have lost their seed stores to looters.

"We are looking to start development work as soon as possible," Mr. Lewis said. "Once people get fed, we can turn to water projects, tools, health clinics and livestock."

"We have already started food-for-work programmes in Bardere. We don't want people to be reliant for ever. Free food handouts have to be a short-term thing," he added.

The WFP and other relief agencies want to help people back to their farms and pastures now that the U.S.-led task force has reopened supply routes to towns like Baidoa, Hoddur, Wajit and Kismayu, which drew in thousands of starving Somalis.

Mr. Lewis said food distribution in those places had also acted as a magnet to bandits and looters. Relief groups keen to repatriate 400,000 Somali refugees from Kenya had to take care not to create new centres of instability unwittingly.

"We want to keep them dispersed. Food aid can attract insecurity, so we have to be cautious," he said.

## Americans split on Iraq raid

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Almost half of Americans think the U.S. air attacks on Iraqi military sites were appropriate but almost as many feel the response should have been stronger, according to a poll released Saturday.

The Newsweek magazine poll also said 49 per cent of respondents felt there should be another, larger attack on Iraqi military sites if Iraqi provocations continue, and that some eight in 10 Americans support military action to force Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from power.

Only eight per cent of those questioned felt the attacks on Wednesday by U.S. and British bombers "went too far." Forty-six per cent said it was the right response and another 43 per cent said the attacks did not go far enough.

President George Bush said the attacks were in retaliation for Baghdad's continued violations of ceasefire terms reached after the 1991 Gulf war, during which U.S.-led forces reversed Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Eighty-two per cent of those polled supported resumed attacks to force the Iraqi leader from power while 15 per cent were opposed. The support was the highest for President Saddam's ouster of any of seven polls conducted by the magazine over nearly two years.

But 46 per cent of Americans would support normal relations with Iraq if it stopped violating the ceasefire provisions. Forty-seven per cent were opposed.

The poll also showed that 68 per cent approved of how President-elect Bill Clinton has handled his transition to power thus far, eighteen per cent disapproved.

The telephone poll of 753 adults was conducted Jan. 14-15 by the Gallup organization for the magazine. The margin of error was four percentage points either way.

## U.S. hits Baghdad with missiles

(Continued from page 1)

was taking off south of the 36th Parallel, the boundary of the zone, in a formation with other aircraft.

Mr. Fitzwater said allied forces also hit an Iraqi surface-to-air missile battery after a radar "locked on" to an allied plane. The Iraqis said the town of Tull-Ahr, about 60 kilometres west of the city of Mosul, was attacked with a missile.

On Wednesday, more than 100 U.S., British and French warplanes attacked Iraqi missile bases in and near the southern zone as Baghdad confronted the West in a dispute over the "no-fly" zones and compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions.

President Saddam's defiant remarks came shortly after Iraq said it had "repulsed enemy targets" — presumably allied reconnaissance jets — three times over the northern exclusion zone.

The agency also reported that Iraq made a new offer to the United Nations — to safeguard flights of U.N. weapons inspectors from Bahrain to Baghdad if the United Nations would stop allied planes from the southern "no-fly" zone during the U.N. flights.

President Saddam's nationally televised address marked the second anniversary of the Jan. 17, 1991, start of the Gulf war, in which U.S.-led multinational forces ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

President Saddam said that during the Gulf war, "Baghdad and its sister cities in Iraq bore the shelling of 3,000 warplanes from the beginning of the

'mother of all battles' until the ceasefire."

He said that the allies had failed in their anti-Iraqi conspiracy.

"The faithful Iraqi army will not be defeated, and Baghdad and its sister cities ... will all be castles of freedom," he added.

"If the enemy continues its military aggression, or even if it stops, it is the final and decisive chapter which will be the end of all chapters."

He also commented on the ruling Al Sabah family of Kuwait. The oil-rich emirate is grappling with allegations of major financial scandals that reach into the royal family.

"You should remember that the traitors of Al Sabah act towards Kuwait not as those in charge or responsible," President Saddam said.

"They act as if they had rented Kuwait, during which time they achieve the purpose of their masters in a manner hostile to the people and history."

"If my brothers in Baghdad never put you Kuwaitis any day in one basket with the traitors of Al Sabah," President Saddam said in a direct appeal to Kuwaitis.

"... This is the real face of Baghdad and this is the face of Baghdad that you know," he said.

He said that before Iraq's invasion the emir of Kuwait had a personal fortune of \$60 billion. "He is a thief appointed (by the West) to cut a people from its roots," he said.

President Saddam accused the United States and its Gulf war allies of hijacking the United Nations. "They are imposing on the council their own wills and forcing it to issue resolutions

to harm Iraq."

He accused the world body of closing its eyes to "Israeli atrocities in Palestine."

Iraq threatened Saturday to down allied planes entering its territory, and a confrontation simmered on the border with Kuwait over six Iraqi police posts the U.N. demanded removed.

Later, a U.N. source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the police posts had been abandoned Sunday afternoon.

A Kuwaiti official said he had been told of the development by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM).

He said he was certain that the police posts, which are now in Kuwaiti territory following the demarcation of the border by the United Nations, would be dismantled as soon as possible.

Iraq, which has rejected the border demarcation, earlier ignored a deadline of midnight local time on Friday for removal of the six police posts.

A Kuwaiti official said an Iraqi was killed and one arrested Sunday in a clash with a Kuwaiti border patrol. A third man escaped, an official said.

Adel Ibrahim, the Interior Ministry spokesman, would not characterize the Iraqis involved.

There have been frequent border clashes between police and smugglers engaged in a lucrative trade in whiskey, guns and sheep.

Earlier Sunday, thousands of Iraqis took to the streets for the "Aggression Day" declared by the government to mark the war anniversary.

"Bush, Bush, listen well, we love Saddam," chanted the crowds moving through the streets carrying torches.

political crisis between Jordan and Egypt," he said, demanding a government account of the matter.

In its three-hour session, the House also discussed a report on deputes' attendance of the House meetings with Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat urging deputes to attend the sessions on time.

Many deputes have been missing the House session, causing delays of the meetings due to the lack of quorum.

"Attending the House's session is a duty and not a voluntary work," Dr. Arabiyat told deputes.

The House also discussed a number of recommendations made by its Administrative Committee on pharmacists' requests for increased salaries, a complaint by employees of the Natural Resources Authority about a reduction of their organization's financial allocations and the legality of licensing private security companies.

The House endorsed the recommendations of the committee and referred them to concerned government agencies.

Minister of Interior Jawdat Shouk said private security companies were licensed in accordance with the law.

He countered Deputy Dughmi's argument that such companies could eventually pose a security threat in the country, saying that the government strictly monitors the work of these companies which provide security services to private sector organizations upon request.

He said their work does not undermine or conflict with the duties of police while Mr. Dughmi said administrative governors should operate such services as stipulated by the relevant law.

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He countered Deputy Dughmi's argument that such companies could eventually pose a security threat in the country, saying that the government strictly monitors the work of these companies which provide security services to private sector organizations upon request.

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gunmen kill two civilians in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Gunmen shot dead two civilians in separate attacks in Algiers in the past 48 hours, the official news agency APS said Saturday. Police described the killers as "terrorists," the official term for Muslim fundamentalists who are blamed for killing more than 210 members of the security forces last year. Three men gunned down trader Mousleh Thajjat, 41, outside his shop in Hussein Dey, a fundamentalist bastion, Thursday. The second victim, 23, who was not identified, was killed in another southern suburb, Eucalyptus, Friday night. Last year about a dozen civilians, including a militant communist and a father of two policemen, were killed in similar fashion.

### Morocco jails 2 Italians on drug charges

RABAT (R) — A Moroccan court has jailed two Italians for two and a half years for drug smuggling, the official news agency MAP said Saturday. MAP said the court in the northeastern town of Oujda also fined them 8,000 dirhams (\$900) each. The two, who were not named, were arrested on Dec. 17 as they were crossing the border between Morocco and Algeria. Seven kilograms of cannabis resin, with an estimated street value of \$24,000, was found in 63 condoms concealed in the body of their car.

### Iranian jailed, canded in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A former Iranian national soccer captain has been sentenced to two years in jail and given three strokes of the cane for possessing opium in Malaysia, a newspaper said. A magistrate's court in petaling Jaya Town found Reza Rajabi, 34, guilty of possessing 202.5 grammes of opium in a plastic roll in a jacket and another 1.5 grammes in a plastic bag in his briefcase on March 9 last year, the New Straits Times said. There were no further details. Malaysia has banned more than 100 people, including foreigners, under its drug laws which prescribe the death penalty for possessing more than 15 grammes of heroin or 200 grammes of cannabis.

### Spanish royals postpone visit to Israel

MADRID (R) — Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia have postponed a visit to Israel planned for next month because the king's father is ill, the royal household announced. The statement gave no alternative date for the visit, which had been set for Feb. 15 to 17. The king's father, Don Juan de Borbon y Battenberg, has been in hospital since last September with a throat complaint. The king and queen cancelled visits to Turkey and Bulgaria late last year to be near him. The newspaper El Pais reported Friday the royal couple were calling off their visit to Israel because of Spanish anger at Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon, but government officials would not comment on this.

### Turkey, Tunisia to discuss security

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin is visiting Tunisia for talks on security and prevention of terrorism, an official statement said. "We will have talks with Tunisian officials on ways to boost security and seek effective measures to prevent terrorism," Mr. Sezgin was quoted as saying in the statement. Turkey and Tunisia signed an agreement in 1990 to exchange security information and to cooperate in battling drugs trafficking and violence.

### Cypriot commerce minister resigns

NICOSIA (AP) — Commerce Minister Takis Nemitsas resigned Saturday, a day after apologising to the leader of the opposition for making a derogatory outburst against him. The resignation came three weeks before the Feb. 7 presidential election and two days after parliament voted 23-16 in Thursday's budget debate to cut the provision for Mr. Nemitsas' salary and expenses allowance. Chaficos Clerides, the leader of the right wing Democratic Rally opposition party, led the demand for the salary cut declaring this would signify "our total lack of confidence in Mr. Nemitsas." Opposition parties have accused Mr. Nemitsas, a millionaire businessman, of lying to a parliamentary committee and of using his frequent official visits abroad to clinch deals for his family's manufacturing business. Mr. Nemitsas denied the charges. He reacted to the parliament vote by charging that 74-year-old Clerides was "no longer aware of what he does or says because of old age and drink." Mr. Nemitsas was forced to apologise Friday, however, after his outburst sparked off demands for his resignation by three of the four parties in parliament. President George Vassiliou also issued a statement Friday apologising to Mr. Clerides for his minister's outburst and this apparently forced Mr. Nemitsas to submit his resignation Saturday.

### Snowfall in Iranian desert crushes houses

NICOSIA (R) — A freak snowstorm lasting four days crushed mud-brick houses and set off a wave of traffic accidents in the central Iranian desert, the Iranian news agency (IRNA) said. "It caught the people off and virtually unprepared... the snowfall finally stopped Friday morning after turning everything and everywhere outside into white," IRNA said. It said the storm in Yazd, 800 kilometres south of Tehran, was the desert city's first snow in more than 15 years. The heavy snowfall caused three houses to collapse and more were expected to be damaged, IRNA said. Police reported 10 car accidents in one 24-hour period.

### Hungarian foreign minister visits Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky began a five-day official visit to Israel Sunday saying he hoped for progress this year towards peace in both the Balkans and the Middle East. The two countries renewed diplomatic relations in 1989 after a 22-year break over the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. "Both Israel and Hungary are situated in crisis areas in the Balkans and the Middle East and we hope this year that we see progress or possibly even a solution to the problems of these two areas," he told reporters. He will meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and representatives of the 250,000-strong Hungarian Jewish community.

## Iranian papers assail U.S. policy

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian newspapers said Sunday that Washington's policy in the Gulf is to demonise Saddam Hussein on the one hand while allowing him to stay in power so the United States can exploit the crisis.

The English-language International said, "Saddam remains at the helm of power because Washington wants the demonising of the Iraqi ruler to continue, to consequently fish in muddy waters."

It added that "peace and harmony in the Persian Gulf region are detrimental to American interests and it is unresolved conflicts which keep the U.S. economy in shape."

The newspaper implied that the billions of dollars in U.S.

arms sales to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other oil-rich states in the Gulf since the 1991 war was a major reason for Washington's alleged policy.

The newspaper was quoted by the Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicotia.

Kayhan said: "If the past is any lesson, the latest U.S. action substantially implies that Saddam will have to remain in power in Baghdad to allow the Western superpower to conduct business as usual in the strategic Persian Gulf region."

The newspapers urged regional rulers to focus on getting rid of Saddam, a move that in Iranian eyes would eliminate the need for the U.S.-led allies to maintain military forces in the region.

Tehran, which is showing signs of more of an expansionist policy, considers itself the main power in the Gulf and insists on being part of any security there.

The presence of Western forces is anathema to the fundamentalist regime.

"It is so difficult for the regional rulers to realise that it is the fire which should be extinguished. The smoke is of secondary importance and will automatically disappear after the fire is put out," Kayhan said.

The hardline radical daily, Jomhuri Islami, charged that 13 allied air raids on Iraqi missile bases were "meant to inflict blows on the person of Saddam or his power bases."

## Egypt seeks return of relics from Israel

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — Egyptian archaeologists arrived in Israel Sunday seeking the return of more than 2,000 artifacts unearthed in the Sinai Peninsula while it was under Israeli occupation.

The return of the relics is the last item in the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty has yet to be implemented.

Kamal Fahmy Ibrahim, head of the Egyptian Antiquities Department, and six archaeologists are here to work out a timetable for the transfer.

The Israelis have agreed in principle to return the artifacts taken during their 15-year occupation, but want to finish studying the finds, said Efrat Orbach, spokeswoman of Israel's antiquities authority.

"There is a delay. We will not return the finds until the scholars finish their research," she said. She added the research would take "several more years."

Professor Eliezer Oren, who spent 10 years excavating in Sinai, said he would settle for a deal that allows Israeli scholars to study the artifacts in Egypt.

"The return should in no way mean an end, but in my opinion the beginning, of a process of cultural cooperation between the Egyptians and us," he told Israel Radio.

The problem is that the negotiations are not done between the archaeologists but through mediators, through their diplomats who have interests and timetables other than ours," Mr. Oren said.

Israel scholars maintain that Sinai's history was thinly explored until Israel seized the territory in the 1967 war.

"The Sinai was an almost virgin land when it came to excavations," said archaeologist Uzi Dahari, head of the Sinai project at the Israel Antiquities Authority.

He told Israel Radio some 60 sites were excavated, revealing artifacts from throughout history, including Jewish, Arab and Christian periods.

The Sinai was where Moses received the Ten Commandments and the children of Israel wandered for 40 years. Egypt's pharaohs built fortifications in Sinai. Building continued in the Greco-Roman times and under Islam, when fortresses were built against marauding Bedouins.

## Musa

(Continued from page 1)

The court, which allowed the expulsions to take place despite objections at the time, asked for the first time for a list of those expelled. Mr. Harish did not have one ready.

As the seven-judge panel began the first day of its hearing, demonstrators wanting the expulsions cancelled competed outside with groups demanding Mr. Rabin expel more Palestinians.

Hearings on the legality of the expulsions continue Wednesday.

Last week it reversed policy and agreed to permit the International Red Cross access to the tent camp, and foreign Minister Shimon Peres said after meeting with Mr. Musa that Israel was ready to make more "humanitarian gestures."

"Every humanitarian consideration will be met with sympathy by the Israeli government," Mr. Peres said Sunday. "We do not look for any collision course with the United Nations."

The Palestinians are short of fuel, food and medicine.

The Red Cross said Sunday it had abandoned a plan to use a U.N. helicopter to take medicine to the Palestinians and evacuate nine evictees Israel said were expelled by mistake.

Bernard Pfefferle, chief delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said the plan was put on hold because of conditions raised by the United Nations in New York and the Red Cross was now pushing to go by land through Zemyra.

Israel agreed to the proposal Friday. The Lebanese government said Saturday it needed some answers from the ICRC before it would authorise the relief flight.

Mr. Pfefferle declined to say what were the U.N. conditions for using the helicopter. The ICRC flew to the camp a week ago and evacuated a sick evictee and a 16-year-old expelled in error.

Mr. Musa said the crisis should be resolved before Middle East

peace talks resume, "to clear the atmosphere and prepare for a viable, useful peace process."

Last week, the Palestinian delegation announced it will boycott negotiations until the evictees are repatriated. Syria, Jordan and Lebanon have stopped short of suspending their participation in the talks.

Negotiations recessed in December and were to resume in February. But Mr. Rabin said Sunday negotiations may not resume before late March, because of the changeover in U.S. administration and the Holy Month of Ramadan, beginning in late February.

Faisal Al Hussein, leader of the Palestinian tent facing Israel in Middle East peace talks, attended Sunday's hearings and told reporters he hoped the court would cancel the expulsions.

Palestinian negotiators, although rivals of the Islamic fundamentalist groups hit by the expulsions, face popular pressure and say they cannot resume peace talks until the evictees are returned.

Mr. Musa said the crisis should be resolved before Middle East

peace talks resume, "to clear the atmosphere and prepare for a viable, useful peace process."



## Minister lowers profit on parts

AMMAN (Petra) — Wholesale and retail merchants of auto spare parts can now make a total of 27 per cent profit on the total cost of parts sold to the public, Minister of Supply, Mohammad Saqqaf, declared Sunday. This reflects an adjustment to the 25 per cent profit announced at the end of last month.

The profit ceiling for auto spare parts should not exceed 27 per cent; to be distributed between the wholesale and retail stores in the Kingdom, said the minister in a statement. The 27 per cent profit should be calculated on the total cost of the imported item, which takes into account the cost of the item, customs duty, transportation, insurance and banking expenses, as well as other fees, statement said.

Two weeks ago the Minister announced that the cost of spare parts for all types of vehicles be reduced by five per cent in the 1993.

The minister, announcing the adjustment at a meeting with auto spare parts merchants, said their profit should be reduced from 30 to 25 per cent on all parts.

Sunday's statement said that all spare parts for sale at stores should carry clearly displayed price tags or be listed in a register for customers to see.

Merchants refusing to sell any spare parts found in their stores would be violating the Supply

Ministry laws, the statement said. It said that should spare parts agents declare that they are lacking the required spare parts, they must issue a note to the customer to this effect and try to supply the missing part within 45 days.

At his meeting with the merchants, the minister was quoted as saying that the current economic circumstances facing the country and the Jordanian people require merchants to contribute towards alleviating the financial burdens already on car owners. He called on agents and dealers to make available all types of parts requested by car owners, and added that the Ministry of Supply would do all its best to protect the consumers' interests within the law.

## All draft laws to go to new council

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday approving the creation of a new department at the Prime Ministry to be known as "the Legislation and Opinion" Council whose views are to be consulted on every draft law or regulation before it can be enforced.

Comprising a group of experts on legal and economic issues, the council will consist of three departments: a department of legislation, a department on modernisation legislation, and a legal department, according to a statement.

The statement said the council will be directly linked to the Prime Minister and will be conducting studies on draft laws and regulations that are referred to it. The council will have the authority to introduce amendments to provisions included in draft laws, and can redraft those laws which are referred to it by the Prime Minister.

## Workshop addresses nuclear accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Sunday opened a workshop attended by experts from various departments to discuss a national plan to deal with nuclear accidents and radiation.

Ministry Secretary-General Abdul Wahhab Al Zoubi told the opening session that Jordan was drawing a national plan to study actual accidents which occurred around the world and the means adopted to deal with them.

The ministry wants to include in the national plan effective precautionary measures against radiation, Mr. Zoubi said in his address to the meeting organised in cooperation with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Jordan was among the first Arab countries which called for an emergency meeting to discuss the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident of 1986 and to exchange information and data towards dealing with nuclear accidents in the Arab region, said Mr. Zoubi.

He said that the ministry has worked out a plan to measure natural radiation activity and has set up a special observatory centre to measure radiation in the environment caused by various sources.

Taking part in the workshop were representatives from the Ministries of Energy and Mineral Resources, Water and Irrigation,

## Farhan defends IAF role

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Until now, people still doubt the relationship between the Muslim Brotherhood (Brotherhood) and the newly-established Islamic Action Front Party (IAF). In a two-hour lecture held Saturday at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, the guest speaker, IAF secretary, Ishaq Farhan, refuted accusations and shed light on his party's real objectives.

"The Islamic Action Front is not a substitute for the Muslim Brotherhood," Dr. Farhan said. "It is a political party that saw light on the 8th of December last year and heads towards political action rather than concentrating on charitable activities and educating generations based on Islamic teachings and principles as it is the case in the Muslim Brotherhood."

In what they claim as the failure of the Muslim Brotherhood to achieve its desired objectives, some lecture participants fired criticism at the Brotherhood, blaming it of inefficiency in assuming its responsibilities throughout its 64 years of existence.

"Is the establishment of the IAF a simple declaration of the



Ishaq Farhan

Brotherhood's failure or is it simply an adaptation to what is really going on in the Jordanian political arena?" one participant asked.

Dr. Farhan told participants that Islamic action is not only confined to the establishment of the Islamic state (caliphate). It has, he said, other main objectives among which is Islamic education and spreading the Islamic call among the people.

"The Brotherhood has succeeded in raising awareness among the public of the message of Islam," he stated. "While mosques are nowadays flooded with people praying and hijab (the Islamic veil) has become an ordinary feature of Muslim women; these aspects were considered a rare phenomena in the

past," he added. One participant questioned if women wearing veils and incidents of killing tourists in Egypt can be considered positive features of Islamic renaissance. "The West is very well aware of an Islamic renaissance," Dr. Farhan answered back. During the lecture, Dr. Farhan explained that one of the main challenges facing the IAF is an interior one; that is, the difficulty of members to get accustomed to political action. He emphasised that one of the important things members ought to deal with is their adaptation to the principles of democracy and accepting its consequences.

A member of the Islamic Liberation Party charged the IAF with being a state party rather than a people's party.

Dr. Farhan refuted the accusation saying that the IAF's main goal is not to oppose the government on every action it takes.

"We do approve certain actions adopted by the government but that does not mean that we are following in its footsteps," he said. "We oppose, for instance, the peace process and demand the withdrawal of Arab delegations, a stand that is totally contrary to that of the government."

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF



#### Regent visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the Regent, Sunday visited the Prime Ministry where he had a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. The meeting dwelt on several domestic issues.

#### Queen joins Arbor Day celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will Thursday take part in planting forest tree saplings in an area near Amman-Yajouz road as part of a tree planting ceremony organised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. The ceremony, which is held as part of Jordan's celebrations of Arbor Day, is part of a scheme aimed at greening Jordan by the year 2000. The area which will be planted Thursday will be called the Queen Noor Forest.

#### Abu Jaber meets Japanese team

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Sunday received members of the Japanese Parliament's investigation committee, which is in charge of investigating international disputes. Dr. Abu Jaber briefed them on Jordan's stand towards the peace process and stressed the Kingdom's adherence to the firm principles which serve as a basis for the peace process.

#### Lower House committee discusses laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's judiciary committee met Sunday under its chairman Salim Al Zu'bi and discussed the youth welfare draft law. Deputy Zu'bi said four articles of the law were so far approved by the committee which will resume its discussion of the law next Saturday. The committee has also approved three articles of an amendment to the municipalities law, he said. Mr. Zu'bi said the committee was debating the issue of the independence of the three authorities and the powers of the Lower House's committees. This issue was highlighted in the House's meeting last week when Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh complained of a visit by the House's agriculture committee to several of his ministry's departments. The deputies voted to refer the issue to the judiciary committee to decide on it.

#### YWCA urges support for Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) Sunday called on the world YWCA in 84 countries to join forces in support of the 415 Palestinians expelled a month ago to South Lebanon. In an appeal sent out by the YWCA in Amman, the YWCA called on all non-governmental organisations and YWCA all over the world to pressure Israel into returning the expelled to their homeland. The appeal said the expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland constituted a flagrant violation of human rights charters.

#### ILO team arrives Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — A fact-finding team representing the International Labour Organisation (ILO) will arrive in Amman Friday on a four-day visit to Jordan. The team will meet with Jordanian officials in order to be familiarised with Israel's repressive practices against Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In its meeting with Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabaseri, the team will discuss a report prepared by Jordan on Israeli malpractices against Arab labourers.

#### Amendments sought to customs law

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint committee from the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Amman Chamber of Industry Sunday discussed the proposed sales tax which is now being examined by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Customs Department. The committee agreed to prepare a memorandum to the minister of finance/customs requesting him to make some amendments to the customs law.

## JD 1m project goes to JESORS

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS) Sunday won a contract from the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) to conduct an urban development project in the city of Aqaba.

Under the terms of the agreement JESORS will develop an estimated 125,000 square metres on which shopping centres and residential areas now stand, at a cost of JD 1 million. JESORS engineers will demolish and reconstruct housing units, and lay asphalt roads of 17,500 square metres for pedestrians and motorists.

The renovation will include a water network of 8,000 metres, sewerage system of 6,495 metres, and a 5,460 metres canal to drain waste water.

JESORS will also install a power telephone network; build retaining walls, public garden and other facilities under the agreement which will be implemented within 14 months, according to Department Director Yousef Hiyasat.

Mr. Hiyasat who signed the deal with the JESORS director said the project, the third of its kind in the port city, was designed to develop the old quarters of Aqaba.

JESORS prepared the plans and the blueprints for the project, and the infrastructure for social centres and schools, said Mr. Hiyasat. He said this is the third project to be executed by the department after the Shallaleh and Salahuddin development schemes also carried out in Aqaba.

Mr. Hiyasat said that the department plans to embark on a fourth project in the north of the old city during the coming three months, and a tender for the project has already been announced.

The department was concerned over the implementation of housing schemes benefiting limited income groups, Mr. Hiyasat said. He added that to date, the department has built 30,000 housing units in 110 housing projects costing more than JD 250 million in various parts of Jordan.

## Temperatures to drop below 0°C

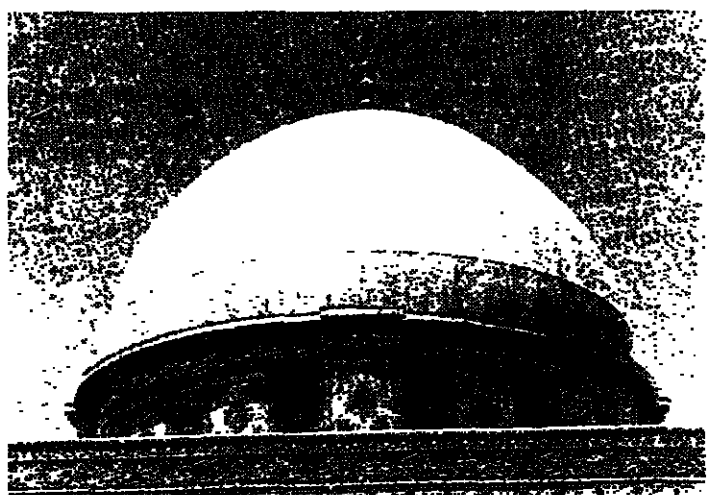
AMMAN (J.T.) — The dry and cold spell that has affected Jordan recently is expected to continue over the next few days. The Department of Meteorology said temperatures will drop to -2°C at night, rising to about 9°C in the coming days during which no rain is forecast.

Department official Jamal Al Mousa told the Jordan Times the cold weather was caused by a high depression centered over eastern Turkey which is responsible for the bitterly cold winds from the east.

The cold weather causes a sharp decline in temperatures below the annual average and is causing water surfaces and spring water to freeze, said Mr. Mousa. He said the minimum temperatures in the desert regions will be -4°C, rising during the day to 10°C.

The department registered -10°C in Rweishid near the Iraqi-Jordanian border Saturday evening, while -11°C was registered at Ma'an, -7°C in Shobak -7°C at the Queen Alia International Airport -8°C at Jafer.

Mr. Mousa said no change in the weather condition was expected in the coming few days and no significant change is forecast later on.



The Dome of the Rock

## Holy sites repairs continue

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee in charge of the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock Sunday discussed technical reports about methods of gold-plating the dome, and the type of wood used in its restoration.

The committee, which met under the chairmanship of Minister of Awqaf Izzudin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, also examined a report about the fire early warning system, proposed by the Civil Defence Departments.

The committee endorsed the report and decided to send it to the resident engineer's office in Jerusalem.

The committee also decided to increase the technical support staff in Jerusalem. The restoration and gold-plating process, which started on July 20, 1992 will take 540 days, according to the committee chairman Sheikh Izzuddin.

Meanwhile the Royal Commission for the Restoration of Mosques and Holy Sites in Jordan met Sunday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat.

The committee studied offers for restoring monuments of the companions of Prophet Mohammad in the South Mazar area near Al Karak. It also discussed proposals to reconstruct the Prophet Shu'eb monument and reviewed all designs offered for the project.

## Settlements

(Continued from page 1)

occupied territories while in Israel the road situation worsened.

"Continuation of construction at this time is an obstacle to the peace talks in Washington and it raises tension and violence in the (occupied) territories," the statement said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin came to power in July vowing to curb the settlements which the United States insisted were an obstacle to Arab-Israeli peace talks launched in October 1991.

### REQUIRED

A female professional typist in English language is required, using both a typewriter and PC. Minimum 2 years experience in the field with good command of English. Full time office hours required. Typing Arabic is an advantage.

Please send your C.V. and certificate of qualification with two photographs to Rumiana Nuseibeh, P.O.Box 35087, Amman-Jordan, latest till 23rd of Jan. 93.

### ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in modern standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on January 30, 1993, and will last for 16 weeks.

The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. Evening classes meet three days a week: Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Those interested, please call at the Language Centre for registration. (Registration begins on Saturday 23.1.1993)



Eggplants for export

agricultural season in November the Kingdom stands a good chance of marketing its produce to Europe especially during the winter. Dr. Lawzi had earlier toured several eastern European countries including Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, where he said importers expressed interest in buying Jordanian produce.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.

### FILM

★ French film entitled "La Femme d'arot" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

### DIALOGUE

★ Dialogue, in Arabic, with the secretary general of the Jordanian National Alliance at the Islamic Action Research and Studies Centre — 5.30 p.m.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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## Fireworks vs cruise missiles

THE RENEWED attack against Iraq, although limited in nature, is likely to raise tension even further in the area, and on such basis alone it has to be deplored in the strongest terms. The choice of target makes last night's attack all the more reprehensible, in fact, since it is the responsibility of the U.N., and not American cruise missiles, to dismantle Iraq's nuclear facilities or what is left of them. For President Bush and his administration to take international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions into their own hands can only mean that the U.S. has indeed appointed itself a world policeman and not a world leader.

The launch of some 40 cruise missiles from ships in the Gulf and the Red Sea against Zafraniyah was hailed in Washington yesterday as the "simplest and safest" option in a grand strategy to weaken the Iraqi regime and its mass-destruction weapon programme. That Turkey and Saudi Arabia might have opposed the use of their territories by U.S. forces to attack Iraq drew, thus leading Washington to opt for the missiles, was played down to the point of ignoring the whole question by official spokesmen. We can only conclude from this that Washington's real options are not much better than to pick a fight with Iraq, whatever the inherent circumstances.

While we are opposed to any provocations instigated by Baghdad against the U.S. and its allies, simply because tension with the West is not in Iraq's best interests, we remain convinced that the outgoing U.S. president still does things in a fashion that shows he has an axe to grind with President Saddam. Bush will neither forget nor forgive Saddam — certainly not in the last hours of his presidency. But the continuing showdown can be in neither country's interest, especially with the unjustly and unfairly imposed "no-fly" zones in the north and south of Iraq. The new U.S. president has to take into consideration that weakening Iraq as a country, or risking its disintegration into statelets, will bring harm not just to this region and its countries but to U.S. interests here. The West should not have expected Iraq to give up the Umm Qasr port without a fight, albeit as symbolic as that of sending unarmed men to retrieve Iraqi equipment. Nor should we have the myopic Kuwaitis accepted to take it back from Iraq under the threat of U.S. cruise missiles and stealth bombers. Nor should have U.S. allies, particularly those who are ever enthusiastic about jumping on the American bandwagon, accepted the tragic turn of events in the Gulf without one solid question being asked on the wisdom of Washington's actions.

Fireworks for Washington and cruise missiles for Iraq simply do not tally.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TODAY MARKS the second anniversary of the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq, an aggression that opened the door for the Western nations to launch a series of attacks on the Iraqi people and pursue the evil task of starving their children, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The paper said that peace-loving nations would never forget that it was Jordan which had tried to stop the tragedy that befell the Iraqi people and prevent the bombs from falling on the women and children, by attempting to solve the dispute with Kuwait through an Arab-Arab dialogue. It is also to be remembered that Jordan's good mediation was ignored and that its efforts were aborted, said the daily. Despite the tragedy and the divisions among the Arab countries, the paper said, Jordan has continued and will continue to have faith in the strong ties that bind the Arabs together; Jordan is continually trying to re-establish solidarity among the Arab states because for Jordan a pan-Arab unity remains the ultimate goal. There is no doubt that the developments in the region and the continued aggression on Iraq and the U.S. threats against the Arabs should prompt the Arabs to re-unify their ranks and transcend their differences and the negative effects of the Gulf crisis, the paper said. It noted that the common enemies of the Arab nation are continually trying to divide the Arabs while Jordan will continue to do all it can to bring them together.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Sunday accused the American media in general and the Gallup Centre for Public Opinion polls in particular as fabricating figures about the public views in the United States. Khaled Mahadin said that according to the polls, 83 per cent of Americans support aggression on Iraq and 46 per cent demand the liquidation of Saddam Hussein, but that could never be true since the Americans elected Clinton and not Bush to become president and decided not to support the ongoing president's policies against Iraq. If the figures were true, however, the world should expect a grim future since, based on the polls, 300 million Americans would be characterised as murderers using all sophisticated weapons to destroy other nations in the years to come, noted the writer. He said that he was sure that 83 per cent of the Americans do not know anything about Iraq and that 46 per cent are not interested in the Gulf region. The writer said that by electing Clinton, the Americans have voted for someone who wants to address domestic affairs which have been neglected, causing untold sufferings for millions of Americans. He said that the lies and the poisoned propaganda campaigns that have been fed to the American people did not succeed in helping Bush to retain his post at the White House.

A YEAR ago this week the Algerian army deposed President Chadli Benjedid and cancelled the second ballot of parliamentary elections, due to take place a few days later.

It was, on the face of it, an outrageous thing to do, just after the decisive political victory of liberal democracy over Soviet communism in eastern Europe and the decisive military victory of the army of an Arab dictator in the Gulf war. Surely the same western democracies that had put great pressure on governments elsewhere in Africa to accept multi-party elections would not tolerate such a blatant abortion of the electoral process on the very fringe of western Europe?

They did, of course, and the reason is not secret. The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was virtually certain to win an overall majority if the second ballot had gone ahead. During the cold war, the West would turn a blind eye to authoritarian practices if the

alternative seemed likely to be a communist or pro-communist government. Now, it seems, the same rule applies, only for "communist" read "Islamic fundamentalist".

In the case of communism, there was a double rationale for this attitude. On the one hand, the expansion of communism, by whatever means, was seen as threatening western security. On the other, it was argued that a communist victory, even through the ballot box, would in fact be a defeat for democracy, since a communist government would not allow any more free elections.

This second argument has been used explicitly in the Algerian case by a senior U.S. official, Mr. Edward Djerejian, who said there would be no overwhelming merit in a system of "one person, one vote, one time."

It has some plausibility, in that some of the FIS leaders had said openly that they did not believe in multi-party democracy, and it was doubtful whether the discre-

et Mr. Benjedid would have been strong enough to hold them to the constitution once they were in office.

A year later, however, the claim by the army to have saved democracy from itself is looking thin. Thousands of Islamic militants are in prison (and Amnesty International has again begun to receive regular reports of torture), but there are enough still at large to carry on nightly gun battles with the security forces in many parts of the country. There is no sign of new elections being held. Even in economic policy the regime has reverted to 1970s-style dirigisme.

The West's willingness to support such a regime suggests that Islamic fundamentalism has also replaced communism in the other half of the cold war rationale. It is seen as a threat not only to Algerian liberties but also to western security. John Esposito, a leading U.S. specialist on Islam, shows in a new book, *The Islamic*

Threat: Myth or Reality?, that this view is indeed held by many influential people in the U.S.

It is probably even more widely held in Europe. The normally sober Economist magazine, in its imaginative history of the 21st century published last month, (see story below) sees a new Arab-Islamic superpower, with Iran and Pakistan as satellites, conquering Turkey and southeast Europe, and going on in alliance with China to subdue large parts of Russia.

The Economist imagined this superpower starting with a coup in Saudi Arabia in 2011. But it also assumes that an isolationist U.S. will confine its interest to a "tranquil, fairly prosperous and almost wholly democratic" western hemisphere, while western Europe, protected by its nuclear deterrent, suffers only an influx of Russian refugees.

Tragic as such a scenario might be for Turkey and eastern Europe, a cynical West European

(and still more a cynical American) may be tempted to wonder what all the fuss is about, if that is the worst that "resurgent Islam" can do to him. The most plausible part of it is that western Europe's "disaster" takes the form of a bungled Anglo-French military intervention in the Middle East, not an Arab or Muslim invasion of western Europe itself.

Mr. Esposito takes an optimistic view of Islamic revivalism, concluding that "guided by our stated ideals and goals of freedom and self-determination, the west has an ideal vantage point for appreciating the aspirations of many in the Muslim world as they seek to define new paths for their future."

The French scholar Olivier Roy is much gloomier about what Islamic movements have to offer their own people. But the title of his book, *The Failure of Political Islam* (L'echec de l'Islam politique), is also implicitly reassuring for Europe, a cynical West European

view. Mr. Roy, who was an admirer of Islamic politics in its revolutionary phase, recounts sadly how such movements have retreated during the 1980s into what he calls "neo-fundamentalism", or even "lumpen-Islamism", led by less well-educated people who interpret Islam as an austere and joyless life-style rather than a recipe for social liberation.

Mr. Roy takes it for granted that the FIS will come to power in Algeria sooner or later. But, he says, it would change only the law and less mores — not so much actual morals as the code of public, or publicly admissible, behaviour. "It no longer offers any model of a different society or a better tomorrow."

Algeria under such a government would be more like Saudi Arabia than Iran. Not perhaps the ideal neighbour one would wish for, but hardly a significant threat to European security — Financial Times.

## Cold war warmed over

By Edward Mortimer

## Looking back from 2992

# The disastrous 21st century

Following is "A World History," by Dwight Bogdanov and Vladimir Lowell (University of California in Moscow, 640 pages or 27 sight bites, published 2992), one of the best accounts of democracy's post-1991 failure. Here is its Chapter 13, reprinted from *The Economist*.

This was an opportunity of a magnitude the world had rarely seen before. As Chapter 12 explained, the three-sided War of Ideas that had occupied most of the 20th century ended in a sweeping victory for the once apparently doomed forces of liberalism. The defeat of racial totalitarianism in 1945 having been followed by the defeat of communist totalitarianism in 1989-91, the victorious pluralists seemed to have the future at their feet.

The collapse of communism brought universal agreement that there was no serious alternative to free-market capitalism as the way to organise economic life. It was almost as widely agreed that multi-party democracy was the best form of politics; only a handful of authoritarianists anxious to preserve their own power — most of them in Muslim south-west Asia and the old men still running China openly stood aside from the new orthodoxy. To this ideological triumph was added, in the Gulf war of 1991, a military success that appeared to confirm the new balance of power. The pluralist alliance possessed a technological advantage in the weapons of war that could, it seemed, defeat almost any possible adversary.

All this was potentially a greater change in the course of history than Britain's defeat of Napoleon in 1815. That decided who was to be militarily dominant in the 19th century, but it did not put an end to the ideological fallacy that had begun in France in 1789 and reappeared in new shape in Russia in 1917. The events of 1989-91 could also have proved more decisive than the victory of the reformation in the 17th century. That changed the ideological scene, but it did nothing to decide the military and political balance of power in Europe.

Perhaps not since the battle of Actium in 31 BC, which made possible the Pax Romana of the next two centuries, had there been such a chance to remake the world; and in AD 1991, unlike 31 BC, the central idea on which the remaking would have been based was the victors' belief in every man's right to political and economic freedom.

The remaking never happened, for reasons that modern students of history can understand better than the people of the time did. The 21st century became the "century of disasters," and it was not until the 2300s that it began to be possible to reassemble the beginnings of today's General Confederation of Democracies. The post 1991 failure happened because of a failure of clear thinking, a failure of imagination, and a failure of will.

Pillar by pillar, it fell

The failure of clear thinking applied to all three members of the victorious coalition — the United States, the European Community and Japan. They could, if they wished, have brought a share of liberty and prosperity to much of the rest of the world by the end of the 21st century. They did wish it. But they failed to see that to succeed they had to remain a partnership.

Instead, each of the three almost at once started to assert itself against the others. By 2006, the year of the last American military withdrawal from Europe and Asia, the coalition had collapsed.

At first this was blamed on economic rivalry. There were indeed, even before 1991, sharp animosities in American-European-Japanese trading relations. These grew still sharper in the 1990s. After a brief glow of optimism, the attempt to draw up a more liberal set of trading rules had to be abandoned as protection led to retaliation, which produced counter-retaliation, and so on. By the end of the century there was virtually no rule book at all. The disruption of trade hurt the rich of the world; but it hurt the poor even more, because in the trade war that followed they were defenceless.

Beneath the economic rivalry, however, it can now be seen that a deeper cause of division was at work. It had become common in the late 20th century for the "advanced" countries to claim that they, at least, had overcome the disease called nationalism. They exaggerated their cure. Worse, the force that had given birth to nationalism in the 18th and 19th centuries had now moved on to a larger stage. The desire to create a sense of identity by marking oneself off from others — by separating "us" from "them" — had spread from single countries to whole regions. No shared political or philosophical belief was strong enough to resist it. Hypernationalism had appeared. The hoped-for new world order broke up into the European Restoration, the China-Japan Co-operation Sphere, and the New Americanism.

The failure of imagination that made this worse was specifically Europe's. The Europeans, seeking to recapture some of the power they had lost in the world wars of the first half of the 20th century, had long been trying to set up a European union. The sudden defeat of communism made them think it was necessary to accelerate the process. In doing so, they concentrated on the western end of Europe, where the idea had started — and failed to picture the consequences of excluding the eastern, ex-communist part of the continent.

The West Europeans shut their doors to many of Eastern Europe's exiles, thereby condemning countries like Poland, Hungary and Bohemia — which with help might have managed the leap to democratic capitalism — to a long period of economic and political disorder. The West Europeans also failed to halt the slaughter that accompanied the break-up of Yugoslavia. The subsequent horrors in the ex-Soviet Union were perhaps too huge for anyone to halt; but western Europe could at least have built a barrier, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, between itself and the chaos in Russia.

As it was, the West Europeans spent the 1990s quarrelling over rival constitutions; the anarchy in the east spread to the border of Germany; and by 2008 free Europe was a barely bigger place than it had been in 1988.

The failure of will was America's. By 1992 the United States was the only power that might have prevented all this. It had military strength, a still-large economy, and an ability to see the world as a whole. The optimists believed that the exhilaration of the 20th century, when the United States had twice saved the

world for democracy, would rescue Americans from a return to the isolationism they had chosen for themselves in the 19th century — and that America would once again be the saviour.

The optimists were wrong. America's economic and racial troubles, and the growing animosity of its relations with Europe and Japan, had eaten away its will to lead. President Clinton kept up the attempts for a time, but by the end of the century intervention had won. The Buchanan Doctrine of 2003 — enunciated to Congress 180 years to the day after President Monroe's earlier declaration of the self-sufficiency of the Americas — made America's 21st century a new version of its 19th century. The 20th had been only a marvellous aberration.

Since the United States was now gentler in its treatment of other Americans, the new version was better than the old. The United States itself took a few decades to get used to its narrower horizons, and to sort out its internal problems. But by the mid-2000s the western hemisphere as a whole was tranquil, fairly prosperous and almost wholly democratic — an undogmatic association of free-trading nations protected by its encircling oceans (and the nuclear armory of the United States) from the turmoil elsewhere. Even Quebec eventually joined the Pan-American Free Trade Area, on condition its name be spelt with an accent aigu.

This relatively contented western hemisphere was, alas, no model for the rest of the world. There, the consequences of the disintegration of the pluralist alliance began to work themselves out, one by one. It was no longer possible to hope, as many had hoped at the start of the 1990s, that the democracies might sometimes send their soldiers to save people from the terrible events of that time — in some countries mass starvation and its accompanying banditry, in others a brutal suppression of democracy by military dictators, elsewhere the collapse of all organised government. The Joint Interim Regime in Somalia (1993-98) showed what could be done. It distributed the food that saved several million people from death, rebuilt the country's infrastructure, and administered the place until the election of governments to the two countries into which the Somalis decided to divide themselves. But the Somali intervention was the last of its kind.

Intervention cost money, and lives. If this was hard for the democracies to accept when they were still allies who shared the burden, it became impossible when they had broken up. The idea that the rest of the world might be helped along the road to freedom and prosperity faded from people's thoughts. After the failure in Yugoslavia, western Europe began to lower a mental curtain between itself and events east of Vienna. The guiding lamp of democracy grew dim. Dictators everywhere took new heart; the doctrine that sovereignty permitted abuse of human rights — *cuius regio eius potestas* — took new root.

The retreat from democratic hopes was made more rapid by the impoverishment that followed the tearing-up of world trade rules. Many African and Asian countries, suddenly even poorer than before, were easy prey for dictatorial seizures of power. By 2030 a larger proportion of the world's population was living under authoritarian rule than

half a century earlier.

### The new giants

Out of this confusion arose two new great powers, which between them came to dominate the 22nd and 23rd centuries. The first — predictably, though not many people realised in time where the statistics were pointing — was China.

The Chinese economy could not quite keep up the 9 per cent real annual growth rate it had reached in the 1980s; that period, the opening up of agriculture and small industry, was the easy one. But even when it faced the more difficult task of building a modern mass-production industry on the market system, China continued to grow faster than any other big country, sometimes by a margin of two or three percentage points a year. Since it had over a billion people, that made it a great economic power by the 2020s; and, since it already possessed nuclear weapons, and was now able to pay for formidable non-nuclear armed forces as well, it became a great political power too.

It was not, however, to become a democracy. It ceased to be a communist society, of course, when its ruling party gave up control of the economy. But that ruling party continued to declare, even when it no longer called itself communist, that a country as big and disparate as China needed a strong central government, especially if it was to have a vigorous foreign policy. As examples, the ex-Communists pointed both to China's own history and, closer in time, to the de facto one-party system devised by post-1945 Japan. They struck a deal with their former Nationalist enemies, when unification with Taiwan took place in 2007, and reunified China settled down to be a market economy under an authoritarian political leadership.

It was by no means the first time the world had seen that combination. This China's first big foreign-policy challenge was what to do with Japan. Many Japanese, seeing the way things were going in China, were by the end of the 1990s arguing that if Japan wanted to keep its independence it must become a nuclear power. But memories of the atomic bombing of two Japanese towns in 1945, and the fact that most of Japan's people lived in a handful of vulnerable coastal cities, produced strong opposition to this idea within Japan itself, and, in 2009, China delivered its veto.

The detonation of a Chinese nuclear warhead over the sea off Yokohama caused no casualties, except for the unlucky crew of a tanker that had ignored the warnings. It was the last martial use of nuclear power. But it changed the map of eastern Asia, and from then on Japan was to China what Switzerland had earlier been to its big European neighbours: a rich, efficient provider of specialised financial and business products, independent in its domestic affairs, but small and unassertive enough (Japan's population was now less than a tenth of China's, and ageing fast) to be any kind of rival on the international scene.

Now China had to decide what its relations should be with the other new great power of the 21st century. This was the force that burst upon the world, almost as explosively as a similar phenomenon had done 1,400 years earlier, out of the long-sluggish Muslim World: the New Caliphate, as amused outsiders called it until they learnt not to joke.

The failure of Muslims to match the political and economic advance of the democracies had puzzled the 19th and 20th centuries. These people had, after all, an earlier history of dazzling achievement; more recently many of them had shown great skill in science and the arts; and, since the early 20th century, their lands had contained most of the industrial world's chief sources of energy. All they lacked, it seemed, was the right combination of circumstances for organising themselves into a coherent power. That this analysis was correct was demonstrated by the results of Colonel Alghosabi's coup in Saudi Arabia in 2011.

Alghosabi succeeded, where so many would-be unifiers of Islam had failed, because he quickly took control of almost all the Gulf oil; because he could point Muslims towards a new geopolitical target; and, above all, because by 2011 Muslims felt that at last they had a chance to work off their ancient resentment against the now-splintered western world.

The revolutionaries in ex-Saudi Arabia, now the Islamic Republic of Arabia, offered to share the Gulf's oil wealth with other Muslims in return for a foreign-policy alliance and a joint army. Most of eastern Islam stayed aloof, but almost all the Arabs joined the movement: Iran found it expedient to compromise; and even Pakistan made a contribution to the army. The driving force was not religion, though that created the movement's sense of identity. It was hypernationalism, another region's demand to stride upon the stage.

The first victim was Turkey, a country accused of betraying its fellow Muslims in pursuit of the false western idea of democracy. A bungled British-French expedition to Antioch (2014) failed to prevent the invasion of Turkey. The forces of the New Caliphate swept up the Bosphorus and, in the war of the Sanjak (2016), established their first bridgehead in south-eastern Europe.

The main target, however, was the decaying corpse of Russia, itself a fragment of the broken Soviet Union; and here the New Caliphate found the basis for the alliance with China that was to shape the next two centuries. The Chinese wanted to recover the Siberian territories they had lost to Russia in the "unequal treaties" of the 19th century. The new Muslim power started by wanting to remove the last Russian influence from the Muslim southern parts of the ex-Soviet Union; and then, having achieved that, found itself pushing still farther north. China supplied most of the weapons the Caliphate needed. The Caliphate provided China with a secure western flank.

By the mid-21st century, all this had been accomplished, because there was nobody to forbid it. The Americans politely repeated that the rest of the world was no business of theirs. The West Europeans, divided, shocked by America, and shored by the Antioch disaster, did not intervene. India, intimidated by the new Muslim power and weakened by the secession of some of its north-western states, was helpless. Africa south of the Sahara had for the moment vanished out of history.

The Russians, after years of economic disorder and short-lived governments, were in no position to resist. Their army was demoralised, and they did not use their decrepit nuclear weapons for fear of an overwhelming

Chinese response. In two brief campaigns Russia's borders were pushed back to the Urals and to an uneasy line running from the central Urals to the Sea of Azov. The exodus of refugees added to the pressures on western Europe. The Chinese-Muslim alliance knowing the Europeans still had a powerful nuclear force, cautiously decided to push its expansion no further; but it had become the new superpower.

### The end of the cycle

Looking back from 2992, one can see why the democracies missed the great opportunity they were given in the 1990s. The fact that they had had to spend the 20th century fighting their two-front war of Ideas, against communism and fascism, was itself a sign that a cycle of history was approaching its end. The democracies needed to reexamine the ideas that had created this cycle; but they left the re-examination too late.

These democracies were the product of a period that had begun 500 years earlier in the pair of events known as the Renaissance and the Reformation. That was when the rights and responsibilities of the individual began to be asserted against the spirit of authority that had dominated the previous era. It was also when the power of rationality reasserted itself after an Age of Faith. Both of these were necessary changes, and between them they produced the European-American culture, that shaped the next half-millennium. But, as usual, the changes that corrected past errors went too far, and became new errors.

By the 18th century it was being argued that man had now reached an Age of Reason, in which human beings could understand and master every aspect of their lives. This proved false. It led, among other things, to the French revolution of 1789 and the Russian revolution of 1917, both of which claimed to speak for human rights but in fact crushed them, and both of which did irrational things in the name of reason. The fascist upheaval of the 1920s and 1930s was in part a reaction to this, a violent return to the idea that blood and feeling were the true guides to human action. Nationalism, and its son hyper-nationalism, were milder versions of the same reaction.

It was time for a readjustment. A new balance was needed between the analytic part of the human mind and the instinctive part, between rationality and feeling; only then could man address the world more steadily. And a new bargain had to be struck between the claims of individual freedom and the claims of a universal morality; only then could law and liberty swing evenly on the scales. Because they did not tackle these problems in time, the democracies marched straight from the climax of their 20th-century victory into anti-climax. They did not know what to do next.

It is easy in 2992 to say this. Today's 3 billion people have managed, at least in part, to do those rebalancings. And they have seen China and the Muslims move into their own new period of division and uncertainty; Russia reassemble itself; America come back into the world; and Europe settle for proxy but workable reality. The conditions of a Pax Democratica have at last arrived. If only the people of 1992 had seen what their distant descendants could do.



## Businessman denies role in scam

(Continued from page 1)

one-paragraph answer to the Judiciary Committee at the House of Representatives, which was obtained by the Jordan Times, say that "prosecutors involved in the case—who are all career professionals—agreed that the evidence available at the time of the indictment was not sufficient to support criminal charges against Dajani," the Aug. 1992 report added.

In the 190-page preliminary investigation report by the independent counsel, the investigators say that the prosecutors' decision not to indict Mr. Dajani was supported by the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office, which "agree that at the time, they had insufficient evidence to indict him on a 'BNL as victim' theory."

Mr. Dajani's Amman Resources—a commodity trading, shipping and terminalizing agents company—became the main handlers for Iraqi-bound wheat and rice through Aqaba in 1984 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war when Iraq's ports in the Gulf were blocked. Mr. Dajani, who is married to an American, was living in Washington at the time.

According to Mr. Dajani, attention focused on him after his company solved a recurring problem faced by the Iraqis in transporting three million tonnes of commodities—one million each—from the U.S., Canada and Australia to Iraq. Shipments of grain were transported by small vessels with 25,000-tonne capacity and waited at the ports until they were offloaded.

To solve the problem, Mr. Dajani's company maintained a 75,000-tonne ship, the Tanga, as a floating silo in Aqaba. The ship was equipped with vacuum hoses which would empty the grain into a fleet of 1,700 Jordanian and Iraqi trucks which would carry the grain to Iraq.

"This amounted to tremendous savings for Iraq," which, according to Mr. Dajani, was paying \$100 million in demurrage because of congestion in the ports of Iskandarun (Turkey), Aqaba and Kuwait. "The cost of shipping was reduced to a third."

"We were providing an immaculate service for transporting wheat and rice not only from America to Iraq but also from Canada and Australia," he said adding that it was the success of this operation which

brought attention to his person and company.

"The bulk of two items, wheat and rice, created the need for major shipping and that is when we came in," Mr. Dajani said. At that time a specialised team of the Central Bank of Iraq and Rafidain Bank were asking for quotations from American banks on the agricultural credits to Iraq. "And the banking community sought to finance Iraqi purchases because it was guaranteed by the U.S. government."

BNL-Atlanta, according to Mr. Dajani, had slightly lower rates and "that is why it covered the largest percentage of Iraqi financing." Mr. Dajani was introduced to BNL management by the Iraqis and "we consequently became good friends."

It was his friendship with BNL-Atlanta manager Drogoul which caused him negative press coverage, he says.

After Mr. Drogoul was fired from the bank in 1989, Mr. Dajani signed him on as a consultant with a three-year contract.

According to the Wall Street Journal's report, Mr. Dajani asked Mr. Drogoul to "report every six weeks... on moves made by the Atlanta investigators," but Mr. Dajani, while conceding that he did employ Mr. Drogoul after he was fired, said that his task was totally different. "He did massive amount of work in financing commodity trading for the Far East," Mr. Dajani said adding that Mr. Drogoul's services have since been terminated because "he has not been able to function because of his non-availability."

Mr. Dajani was also quick to point out that he checked the legality of his appointment of Mr. Drogoul with an Atlanta legal council office before he offered him a job. "They said

there was no problem."

Mr. Drogoul, who initially pleaded guilty to fraud charges and is facing a possible jail term of more than 300 years, retained a new lawyer in August of last year. The new attorney successfully moved to change Mr. Drogoul's guilty plea, according to the Wall Street Journal's report. His case will be heard in court in April.

Mr. Dajani summed up his role in the affair as attempting to "bridge understanding between Iraq and the U.S. on the subject of trade development."

"There was a convergence of interest between the two countries and since Iraq was a closed society, I, as a businessman, recognised this convergence and operated with the full knowledge and coordination of both countries," he said.

## Evictees

(Continued from page 1)

Some holding copies of the Koran above their heads, the 413 men marched in silence Sunday about one kilometre to a rocky hilltop overlooking Israel's self-declared "security zone."

They sat down in the road and prayed while Israel's militia allies brought in reinforcements and Israeli troops stood ready with firehoses to force them back from Zembraya crossing point.

"The U.N. Security Council should be ashamed of itself," Dr. Rantisi told the men. "How can it implement resolutions on Iraq but silently watch Israeli terrorism?"

The Palestinians stopped about 400 metres from the nearest tanks of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, which moved up 100 metres during the march until they were 600 metres north of the crossing.

## JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Special Issue No. 1



Drawing of Jan. 17, 1993

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Holder of ticket No. <b>07549 (A+B)</b> Wins JD 2,000	Twenty consolation prizes totaling JD 1,000 each wins JD 50 <b>07540 07559 07649 08549 17549</b> <b>07548 07539 07449 06549 97549</b>
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Ticket numbers	<b>75171 (A+B)</b>	Win JD 600 each
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## RACJ sets 12 events for upcoming auto sports season

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) has announced the schedule for the upcoming season with 12 events that are bound to keep auto sports competitors and fans busy and active all year long.

Unlike the 1992 season, which featured only nine events, RACJ's Motor Sports Committee has lined up four autotests, three national rallies, three rallytours, in addition to the ever-popular Rumman Hill Climb and the Jordan International Rally to make up the rounds that qualify for the Jordan Drivers' Open Championship of 1993.

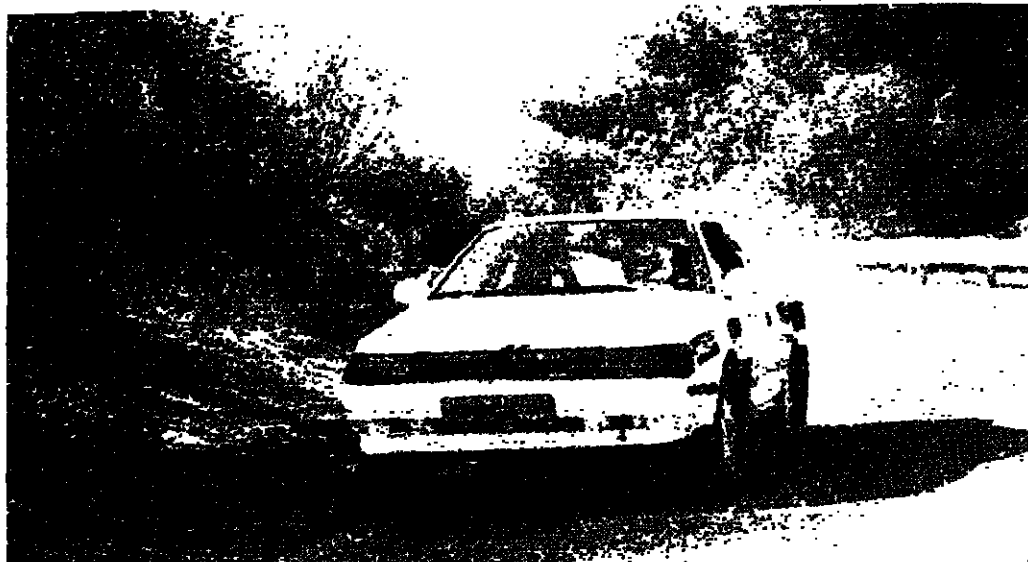
In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, RACJ Director Derek Ledger voiced his optimism over the motor sports scene in the Kingdom and said that local drivers are expected to do much better in the future.

"The 1992 season was very encouraging and everything went according to plan. However we have a more ambitious agenda for 1993," he said. "There are more events this season, organised to suit all tastes and cater for the interests of competitors in all types of motor sports."

"There's a growing interest in motor sports, and many drivers are buying better and stronger cars which will improve their chances of competing for advanced standings. This is a very encouraging sign," added Ledger.

In the upcoming season, only results of all kinds of rallies held in Jordan will be entered in the Drivers' Open Championship standings so as to give an equal chance for all competitors. And in order to give drivers an incentive to compete seriously in national and international rallies only group A and N (homologated) cars will get full points for their participation while group S cars will only get half the points.

Over 350 competitors took part in various rallies organised by RACJ last year. Marwan Abu Hamad won the Driver Open Cham-



Marwan Abu Hamad in his Toyota Celica GT at the Rumman Hill Climb



Majdi Al Jallad

pionship of 1992 with 200 points in the overall standings. Reimon Fleifel came in second with 149 points, while Mahmoud Komok finished third with 146.5 points. Majdi Al Jallad finished fourth.

In the co-drivers championship Khaled Zakaria won first place, Sameh Al Jallad came in second and Raed Wakileh finished third.

Ledger, who is the Middle East representative in the (international) federation of auto sports) FISA International Rallyes Commission, said the RACJ hopes the Jordan International Rally — the biggest



Mahmoud Komok captured third place after he won the National Rally in November

and most prestigious of RACJ's auto sports events — will be successful ever.

"There will be three international stewards from Germany, Cyprus and Sweden, and the chief scrutineer will come from England," said Ledger. "A top FISA official will also be here

for the two day rally." The RACJ will hold a prizegiving ceremony for winners of the 1992 auto-sports season. The ceremony will be held at RACJ headquarters Jan. 27 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein.

The RACJ announced the 1993 auto sports schedule as follows:

Classix Autotests .....	Feb.12	Classix Autotests .....	Aug.6
Leiner National Rally .....	Apr.22	Pepsi Rumman Hill Climb .....	Aug.28
Classix Autotests .....	May.7	Rallytour .....	Sept.24
Jordan International Rally .....	May.27-28	Classix Autotests .....	Oct.15
Jordan Furniture Rallytour .....	June.11	National Rally .....	Nov.26
Danish Dairy National Rally .....	July.16	VIP Hotline Rallytour .....	Dec.17

## Capriati cruises to NSW Open title

SYDNEY (AP) — Fourth-seeded Jennifer Capriati of the United States outgunned No. 5 Anke Huber of Germany 6-1, 6-4 Sunday to win the New South Wales Open tennis tournament.

It was the second American victory in two days at this \$370,000 warmup for next week's Australian Open. Top-seeded Pete Sampras downed No. 7 Thomas Muster of Austria for the men's title Saturday.

The women's final matched a pair of teenagers who are among the hardest hitters on the tour. Capriati was the steadier of the two in the sweltering heat at the White City complex near downtown Sydney.

It was definitely very hot, but coming from Florida, I was used to it," she said.

Capriati, who bypassed the New South Wales tournament last year, said her from going into the Australian Open was the best it had ever been before a Grand Slam.

"I've never won a tournament before a Grand Slam. I feel like I'm playing better (than last year)," Capriati said.

Huber looked nervous early, and Capriati was quick to capitalize. She broke Huber in the first game and kept up the pressure throughout the first set, allowing the German to hold serve only once.

She broke Huber for the match when the 18-year-old German hit

a backhand that sailed just long. "She played a very good match and she deserved to win," Huber said. "I didn't play too good today."

Huber ended up with 39 unforced errors to 28 for Capriati. She also had four double faults, while Capriati blasted four aces.

It was the sixth career title for the 16-year-old Capriati, including the Olympic gold medal in Barcelona.

### Ivanisevic withdraws from Australian Open

Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, the fifth seed in the men's singles, has withdrawn from the Australian Open tennis championships, organisers announced Sunday.

Ivanisevic has a stress fracture in his right foot and has been advised to rest for five to six weeks, officials said in a statement. Ivanisevic was drawn to play Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands in the first round of the tournament, which starts Monday.

His place against Haarhuis will be taken by Austrian Thomas Muster, the highest-ranked unseeded player in the draw. Ivanisevic's withdrawal means the tournament will be without both of last year's Wimbledon finalists.

Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi of the United States withdrew earlier in the week, saying he had bronchitis. Agassi withdrew before the draw was made.

## Final standings in the European Figure Skating Championships

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — The medal winners of the 1993 European Figure Skating Championships, Jan. 10-17 at the Helsinki Ice Hall. The 1993 European Championships are Jan. 18-23 in Copenhagen, Denmark:

Men: — Dmitri Dmitrenko, Ukraine

Silver — Philippe Candeloro, France

Bronze — Eric Millot, France.

Women: — Surya Bonaly, France

Silver — Oksana Baiul, Ukraine

Bronze — Marina Kielmann, Germany

Pairs: — Marina Eltsova and Andrei Bushkov, Russia

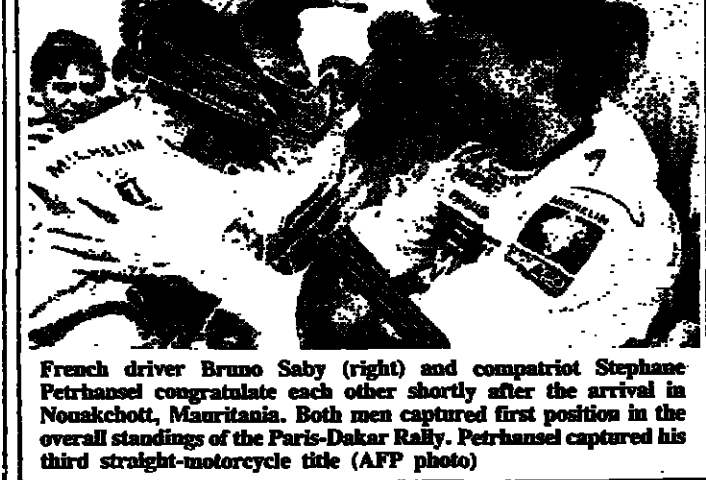
Silver — Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Steuer, Germany

Bronze — Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov, Russia

Ice dance: — Maia Urova and Aleksandr Zhulin, Russia.

Silver — Oksana Grischuk and Evgeni Platov, Russia.

Bronze — Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko, Finland.



French driver Bruno Saby (right) and compatriot Stephane Petrhansel congratulate each other shortly after the arrival in Nouakchott, Mauritania. Both men captured first position in the overall standings of the Paris-Dakar Rally. Petrhansel captured his third straight motorcycle title (AFP photo)

## Humiliating defeats signal end of Liverpool era

LONDON (R) — Liverpool's world has come crashing down around them in a disastrous four days, signalling the end of a great era for the club and English soccer.

The team whose name has been synonymous with success for three decades looks almost certain not to qualify for European competition at the end of this season for the first time since 1964.

Out of both domestic cups, the 1992 F.A. Cup winner are closer to the relegation zone than finishing high enough in the Premier League to qualify for the UEFA Cup.

Bookmakers' odds against Liverpool dropping into the first division were shortened from 10-1 to 8-1 after their 2-0 defeat at

Wimbledon Saturday. Liverpool remained in 12th place, only eight points ahead of bottom club Nottingham Forest and 13 adrift of leaders Norwich.

The defeat followed Liverpool's humiliating exit from the F.A. Cup Wednesday at the hands of second division Bolton.

Troubled manager Graeme Souness, midfield general in four Liverpool championship-winning sides in the late 1970s and early 80s, refused to talk to reporters after the latest setback.

He said after the midweek cup disaster that he was disappointed with the commitment of some of his players, demanding greater passion.

"It's my job to try to motivate players and bring them back to levels where they can win

games," he said.

Souness has spent 13 million pounds sterling (\$20 million) on new players, while offloading a number of internationals who are in good form at other clubs, notably Welsh striker Dean Saunders and Irishmen Ray Houghton and Steve Staunton at title-chasing Aston Villa.

City neighbours Everton, who won the League title twice during the 1980s, have been faring no better, although they beat champions Leeds 2-0 at home to pull level with Liverpool on points.

Klinsmann takes Monaco clear at top

German striker Juergen Klinsmann grabbed his

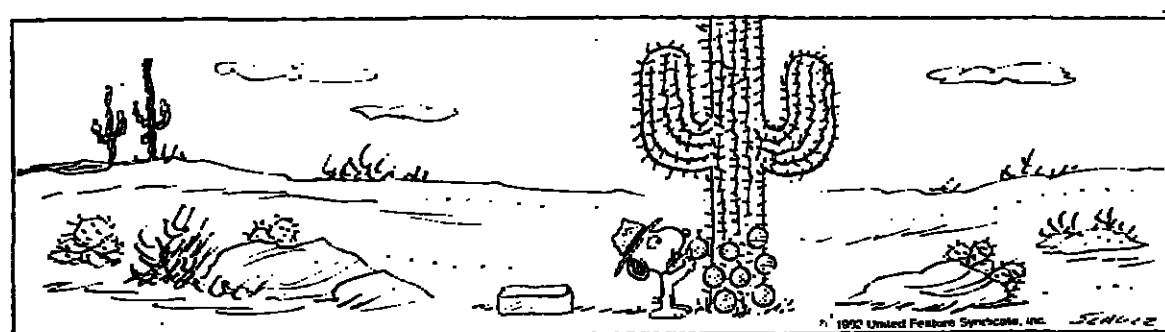
fifth goal in a week to take Monaco clear at the top of the French League Saturday.

Klinsmann, four-goal hero against Auxerre last week, struck the only goal of the game in the 35th minute of the visit to lowly Nimes, taking Monaco a point ahead of Nantes.

Auxerre, unbeaten at home in more than two years, were given a fright by the youthful Nantes side who took the lead through a header from striker Nicolas Ouedec in the 29th minute of the League's match of the day.

But defender William Frunier equalised, also with his head, in the 63rd minute to keep Auxerre in the title hunt.

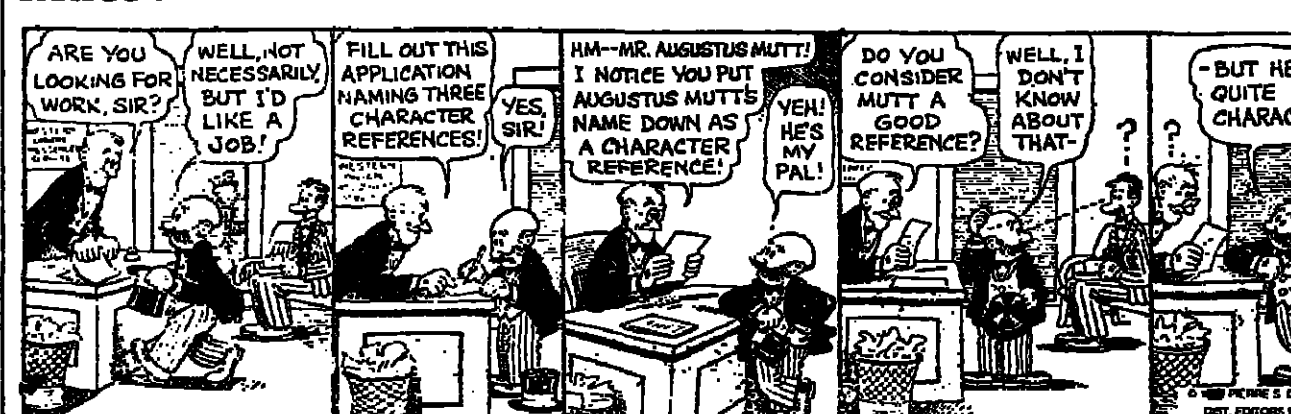
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



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## Kuwait assembly backs public fund protection law

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti parliament Saturday gave preliminary approval to a law aimed at protecting public money following massive losses from the collapse of the emirate's investments in Spain, a senior parliamentarian said.

Hamed Al Jounaidi, head of the assembly's legislative committee, said the proposed law provides for parliamentary monitoring of state investments for the first time.

Sheikh Jounaidi said he expected final parliamentary approval Tuesday during second review of the measure and the law would probably take effect about 10 days after that.

"The law means that the national assembly will be informed on a regular basis about the investments of the Kuwaiti government," he told Reuters.

"That will keep things, we hope, in better order," he elaborated.

Sheikh Jounaidi said the law raised the maximum sentence for misuse of public funds to life imprisonment from 10 years and the minimum penalty for the offence to five years from a fine.

Lawyers representing Grupo Torras filed a lawsuit in a Madrid court this month against former Grupo Torras managers for alleged irregularities.

Islamic fundamentalist parliamentarians have suggested strict punishments such as chopping off the hand of anyone found guilty of embezzling state funds.

No such measure is included in the law. Islamic Affairs Minister Juma Al Azmi said Saturday such strict punishment was appropriate for thieves. Embezzlers ought to be jailed instead, the official Kuwait News Agency quoted him as saying.

The new law requires the state and companies in which the state at least a 25 per cent stake to report investment moves to the government's auditing authorities, in some cases within 10 days of carrying out the transaction.

The audit authorities would not have the power to block investments but every six months it would be required to report on the state's investment activities to the assembly.

Any person proved deliberately to have delayed a report of an investment activity to the audit authorities would be liable to prosecution, Sheikh Jounaidi said.

## Moroccan phosphate group plans major expansion

RABAT (R) — Morocco's billion-dollar phosphate industry is gearing up for a major expansion to satisfy an eventual increase in world demand for fertilisers.

King Hassan of Morocco has said farmers all over the world will eventually have to use fertilisers, especially phosphates, to meet the food needs of an increasing population.

Morocco has 75 per cent of the world's known phosphate reserves. The mainstay of the Moroccan economy, exports of raw rock and by-products are currently worth just over one billion dollars a year.

Energy and Mines Minister Driss Alaoui M'Daghri told a news conference in January that the state-owned Office Cherifien des Phosphates (OCP) would invest more than \$1 billion to expand its production capacity in the next four years.

The OCP's strategy is to switch from exporting raw rock to processing it at home by converting it into phosphoric acid and fertilisers.

Its present capacity is 30 million tonnes of rock a year from four open-cut mining centres. In the mid-1980s exports peaked at 20 million tonnes.

But because of the change in emphasis, coupled with a drop in demand due to recession, rock exports to 36 countries were down to nine million tonnes last year and will be about the same this year.

The OCP forecasts output this year at 22.9 million tonnes, more than half processed locally to make phosphoric acid and fertilisers for export, mainly to Europe and Asia.

In its latest annual report, the OCP said work would start this year on building two more phosphoric acid plants costing \$1.27 billion, bringing the total to seven.

A spokesman said invitations for tenders to build the plants would be launched soon. Previous plants were built by a consortium of Mitsui of Japan and Focox of Spain.

The two plants will be at Jorf Lasfar, a new Atlantic harbour south of Casablanca, and will be able to produce 2,000 tonnes of acid a day starting in late 1995, rising to 4,000 tonnes when the project is completed.

By then it is estimated it will be possible to produce three million tonnes of acid, the main ingredient needed to make fertilisers.

The acid plants pour effluent into the Atlantic Ocean but officials say they are designed to prevent damage to the marine environment in what is one of the world's richest fishing grounds for sardines, tuna and squid.

To replace workings that are near exhaustion, two new mines will be opened up, at Sidi Chenane in 1994, and at Ben Guerir this year. Together they will produce 15.2 million tonnes a year by 1995.

The OCP says the outlook is for fierce competition on the world market. Its report says there has been a "brutal slump" in sales to eastern Europe because of financial difficulties and the abolition of farming subsidies there.

The immediate future depends on an end to recession worldwide, but in the long term Morocco will be ideally placed to keep a major share of the market, one analyst said.

### Financial Markets

Jordan Times  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

#### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (January 11-January 15, 1993)

AMMAN — The dollar retreated in a technical correction during most of last week, but was boosted just before the weekend on rumours of imminent interest rate cuts in Germany and other EMS countries. The U.S. unit ended the week 0.7 per cent lower against the mark, and 0.4 per cent lower against the Swiss franc. Against the yen, the dollar ended 0.5 per cent higher.

The dollar retreated in a technical correction Monday, ending the day well below Friday's levels. Observers noted that traders took profit on their accumulated long dollar positions when the tension passed without a confrontation in the Gulf, and news came that Iraq had withdrawn from the "no-fly" zone.

Observers added that the fact that December's U.S. employment results, that were released just before the weekend, were below expectations, was a further impetus for a correction.

Trading remained range bound Tuesday, as market participants awaited in anticipation news of developments in the Gulf, and the release of a new set of U.S. economic data.

The U.S. currency dropped again Wednesday, due to a further round of long-position liquidation, despite the raid on Iraq by the Western allies. Market commentators said that the fact that the attack was swift and ended in a matter of hours meant that market focus was back on economic fundamentals, rather than on safe-haven considerations. The dollar ended the day at its lowest level of the week at 1.6220 marks.

While the dollar traded in a narrow range Thursday, it rallied, however, after New York opened Friday, on speculation of a concerted European interest rate cut, that could materialize as early as this weekend.

Although some traders were sceptical about the timing, the majority, nevertheless, preferred to cover their short dollar positions ahead of the weekend, particularly as many banks will be closed in the U.S. Monday.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	8/1/93 Close	15/1/93 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5315	1.5312	(0.02)%
Deutsche Mark	1.6475	1.6355	0.73%
Swiss Franc	1.5025	1.4970	0.37%
French Franc	5.6050	5.5290	1.38%
Japanese Yen	125.39	126.05	(0.52)%

U.S. Fed STG

#### Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	8/1/93 1-Month (%)	15/1/93 1-Month (%)	8/1/93 1-Year (%)	15/1/93 1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.10	4.00	2.93	3.56
Sterling Pound	7.10	6.68	7.00	6.56
Deutsche Mark	8.48	7.37	8.50	7.38
Swiss Franc	5.43	5.00	5.50	5.18
French Franc	11.25	9.37	11.75	9.25
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.46	3.81	3.43

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

#### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.688	0.690
Sterling Pound	1.0657	1.0710
Deutsche Mark	0.4242	0.4263
Swiss Franc	0.4631	0.4654
French Franc	0.1251	0.1257
Japanese Yen	0.5470	0.5497
Dutch Guilder	0.3772	0.3791
Swedish Krona	0.0934	0.0939
Italian Lira	0.0458	0.0460
Belgian Franc	0.02045	0.02055

Per 100

## Taiwan cuts stock tax to revive slumping market

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's parliament cut the stock trading tax Saturday to revive the slumping share market, which fell 27 per cent last year because of political tensions, stock scandals and an economic slowdown.

Parliament voted to slash the tax levied on the selling price of each stock transaction to 0.3 per cent from 0.6 per cent. The measure was expected to take effect by next month.

The ruling Nationalist Party's parliamentary whip, Wang Ching-Feng, said earlier the stock slump could hurt the economy and delay in cutting the tax was a reason for the Nationalists' poor performance in last December's general elections.

Parliament's decision demonstrated its growing control over economic policy after recent democratic reforms. The finance ministry initially opposed the tax cut on the grounds it would encourage excessive speculation.

Under pressure from parliament, the ministry later said it would consider a cut if a securities capital gains tax, abolished in 1990, was reintroduced at the same time.

Parliament voted Saturday to ask the ministry to submit a proposal to restore a capital gains tax within one year, but it did not commit itself to passing the proposal and asked the ministry to consider further cuts in the transaction tax.

The stock market climbed Saturday, with the weighted index rising 47.69 points or 1.4 per cent to 3,362.52. It has gained six per cent in the past five days in reaction to the expected tax cut.

Brokers agreed the cut would help to draw some disillusioned investors back into the market. A rise in the tax to 0.6 per cent from 0.15 per cent in January 1990 was blamed for helping to trigger a market crash that year.

But they said domestic political tensions would have to ease before the market could decisively reverse its long-term downturn.

A post-election cabinet reshuffle, in which Premier Hsu Fei-Tsun may be replaced, is expected next month.

"The tax cut is helping the market in the short term, but the long-term outlook depends on whether the cabinet reshuffle goes smoothly," Allan Huang of National Securities said.

Despite the stock market's slump which caused a privatisation attempt this month to fail, Taiwan will press ahead with plans to privatise state firms.

"No matter what the condition of the stock market is this year, we will plan for real in privatising state companies," newspapers quoted Economic Minister Vincent Siew as saying Saturday.

The government still aims to transfer Bes Engineering Corp., China Petrochemical Development Corp and Taiwan Machinery Manufacturing Corp into majority private ownership by the end of this fiscal year in June, he said.

However, the government may use methods such as auctioning stakes and selling off companies' assets separately if the stock market's weakness makes public offers of shares at fixed prices impossible, Mr. Siew said.

Taiwan's expected membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will make privatising state firms imperative, he said. GATT began formally considering the island's application to join last September.

The government launched an ambitious scheme in 1989 to raise about \$20 billion by privatising 22 firms, including industrial giants and some of Taiwan's biggest banks.

## Saudi Arabia to pay grain farmers twice world rate

DUBAI (R) — Saudi King Fahd has ordered spending of more than \$1.6 billion this year to pay subsidies to wheat and barley farmers at double the current world rates, a Saudi newspaper said Sunday. Otag daily said farmers would be offered two riyals per kilogramme (\$533 per tonne) of wheat and one riyal per kilogramme (\$267 per tonne) of barley. It said the total payment was expected to reach more than six billion riyals (\$1.6 billion), but gave no breakdown of expected production. Wheat from other international producers is priced around \$200 to \$270 per tonne, while barley is \$100 to \$110. The newspaper said the payments were intended to boost wheat and barley output to make the kingdom one of the biggest world producers. Ambitious irrigation projects and a 20-year drive to develop its farming sector have already turned Saudi Arabia into the world's sixth largest wheat exporter.

## China issues circular on control of stock markets

BEIJING (R) — China has issued what it calls its most comprehensive document on control of its fledgling stock markets, the Xinhua News Agency said Saturday.

The State Council, or cabinet, officially set up two watchdog agencies to monitor securities markets which experienced a rocky start in this communist country.

"There have been some disorders in the country's securities markets owing to the lack of laws, regulations and supervision systems in this field, lack of experience in operating securities markets and the lack of investors' consciousness of risks," the official agency said.

Last August would-be investors rioted in Shenzhen, south of China, when word circulated that securities officials had hoarded tickets enabling purchase of stock.

A spokesman for the securities committee of the State Council, one of the two new organisations to ride shotgun on the markets, told Xinhua the circular was the most systematic and comprehensive document on control of China's securities markets.

The circular calls for a wider opening of China's securities markets, while providing for more overall control by government.

"It is imperative to issue new type of securities, including investment fund bonds, convertible bonds and trust beneficiary certificates, so as to enrich and invigorate the securities markets," the circular was quoted as saying.

Xinhua gave no other details on the document.

China's leaders have recently vowed to keep control over the economy and social order, revealing in speeches their twin fears of economic overheating and loss of political control.

Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, addressing "old comrades" demanded that China clamp down on money supply, credit and project planning to keep the economy — which grew at a booming 12 per cent last year — from running out of control.

Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, addressing "old comrades" demanded that China clamp down on money supply, credit and project planning to keep the economy — which grew at a booming 12 per cent last year — from running out of control.

He condemned corruption and decadent capitalist thought, and said China must not relax one iota in its fight to keep social order.

"We must strictly control the amount of money issued and the scale of credit," Mr. Jiang said, in a speech on the front page of the People's Daily.

"We must effectively block and overcome blind competition for speed and the phenomenon of low quality, duplicated construction," he said.

Premier Li Peng, in a separate speech also reported on the People's Daily's front page, called for more effective state control over the economy.

While he praised the economic accomplishment of the past year, he said China's economy lacked many of the key tools needed to ensure that the country could deal with the highs and lows of the business cycle.

He said the communist party itself could not let down its guard against corruption within its 51 million members.

But the Communist Party leaders — who in the run-up to the lunar new year have executed at least 59 criminals — are taking no chances.

"We must continue to clamp down on our work to maintain social order," Mr. Jiang said. He said that while China can use capitalist economics to get rich, it cannot afford the incursion of capitalist thought.

"We must withstand the corrosive influence of decadent capitalist and feudalistic thought," the head of the world's largest Communist Party said.

Mr. Jiang said that despite a shakeup of the armed forces at the end of last year many unspecified problems still had to be solved.

He said the communist party itself could not let down its guard against corruption within its 51 million members.

He said the communist party itself could not let down its guard against corruption within its 51 million members.

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## S. Africa talks resume; whites warn de Klerk

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's pro-government Afrikaans press has warned President F.W. de Klerk on the eve of renewed talks with black leaders that he is leaving white voters behind in his drive towards an all-race democracy.

The government resumes direct negotiations with Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's conservative Inkatha Freedom Party on Monday after a four-month hiatus.

And on Wednesday senior representatives of Mr. De Klerk's white government begin a five-day High Veld retreat with top African National Congress (ANC) negotiators to put flesh on the bones of an agreement reached at a similar private encounter in December.

Both meetings and a possible summit between Chief Buthelezi and ANC leader Nelson Mandela will be designed to restart all-party talks about giving the five-to-one black majority a share of political power for the first time in 300 years.

But the country's most influential Afrikaans newspapers warned bluntly in weekend columns that Mr. De Klerk was losing the support of the whites who elected him in 1989 and gave him a 69 per cent approval rating in a referendum on reform last year.

"Dissatisfaction is breaking out everywhere like measles," Die Burger said Saturday in the Dawn column, possibly the country's most influential Afrikaans political commentary.

"If there is one thing the government is going to have to put its heart and soul into in the coming months, it will be to regain its lost stature among white voters," Die Burger said.

Warning that whites fear a surrender of power and oppression by blacks, the newspaper urged Mr. De Klerk to take white voters forward step by step "into the dark future."

The top-selling Afrikaans Sunday newspaper Rapport voiced a similar warning in its editorial comment.

"The feeling among the government's supporters that must be addressed is that they don't know where they are going. Worse, that instead of an orderly transition, they could end up with a total surrender and possible chaos," Rapport said.

The ANC's policy-making national working committee was due to meet Monday to prepare for the Veld encounter, which will start after a cabinet meeting with Mr. De Klerk Wednesday.

The ANC and the government are both eager to resume all-race democracy talks, which stalled last May in a dispute over minority vetoes in the formulation of a new constitution and broke down totally a month later.

"We hope to get it right this time... a tremendous amount of progress has been made in bilateral talks," ANC negotiator Mohammad Valli Moosa told reporters.

A senior government source told Reuters the ANC and the government had significantly narrowed the gap between their positions on powers for regional authorities and on the need for a government of national unity for at least the first five years of democratic rule.

The ANC wants a strong central government, but Mr. De Klerk's national party favours strong regional authorities and Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha wants a form of federalism.



PILGRIMAGE: Pilgrims climb down from the roof of an overcrowded train ferrying tens of thousands of Muslims from the countryside to the town of Tungi on Sunday, the second day of Bawa Ijtima (World Muslim Congress) in Bangladesh (AFP photo)

## Yugoslav units reenter Bosnia war

SARAJEVO (AP) — The Serb-dominated Yugoslav army has reentered the war it formally quit seven months ago, returning fire after Muslims in Bosnia lobbed shells across the border, army sources said Sunday.

The Yugoslav army "responded fiercely" to artillery attacks Sunday and Saturday from neighbouring Bosnia, Tanjug, the official news agency of Serbian-dominated Yugoslavia, reported without elaboration.

No ground troops were involved, only artillery salvos at military targets across the border, according to a source at Yugoslav army headquarters in Belgrade.

It was the first time that Yugoslav units, now comprised of only Serbia and tiny Montenegro, have acknowledged involvement in the Bosnian war since May 1992. The last Yugoslav units formally pulled out on that date, leaving behind tanks and other heavy weapons for Serb rebels.

Since then, both Yugoslav and Serbian officials have denied wide-spread accusations that they

are helping Bosnian Serbs.

Meanwhile, a U.N. convoy tried anew to reach isolated Zepa, a Muslim enclave of about 20,000 people that is reportedly being starved by surrounding ethnic-Serb fighters.

Serb fighters turned back the truck convoy Saturday within sight of Zepa because the road was blocked by logs. In doing so, they stopped 80 tonnes of relief supplies from reaching the town, where hundreds of people have reportedly died from hunger and cold.

Barry Frewer, spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers, said the convoy spent the night in Podromanija, half way between Zepa and Sarajevo, after turning back just outside Zepa, 65 kilometres east of Sarajevo.

Commander Frewer said the convoy on Sunday would try to reach Zepa by another route, recommended by Bosnian fighters.

"There's no thought of pulling back before we have exhausted all possibilities in getting

through," he said of the enclave that has not received aid since the outbreak of the nearly 10-month-old civil war.

Zepa, a shortwave radio operators, the only link to the outside world, say hundreds of people have died in and around their town of hunger and cold. Other regions have reported similar disasters.

Bosnian radio on Saturday reported 60 people froze to death in the last few days in the region of Zvornik, on the Serbian border 100 kilometres northeast of Sarajevo.

The cross-border artillery exchanges between Bosnian and Yugoslav units occurred near Bratunac, a Bosnian town 120 kilometres northeast of Sarajevo. Local Serb commanders in Bratunac said they were trying to counter a Muslim offensive they described as the toughest in the region since the war began in February.

The Serb commanders accused Muslim-led troops of recent massacres of civilians in the region.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Sri Lankan rebel leader dies in ship blast

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels confirmed Sunday that one of their leaders was killed when the ship in which he was travelling was intercepted by the Indian navy, Tamil sources said. "The Tamil Tiger radio in northern Sri Lanka has announced Sathasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, has been killed and the rebels are paying homage to him," a leader of a rival Tamil group said Sunday. The leader who did not want to be identified said his information was based on monitoring the radio station of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in their northern Jaffna peninsula stronghold. Other Tamil sources in Colombo also confirmed the rebel announcement in Jaffna. An Indian Defence Ministry spokesman said Saturday navy vessels had surrounded the ship, the Abat, off the southern Indian port of Madras after discovering it was carrying arms and ammunition. They ordered the Abat to surrender. Instead the guerrillas set off the explosion.

#### Indonesia to get 39 German warships in April

JAKARTA (R) — The Indonesian navy is to take delivery of 39 ageing former East German vessels in April, including Corvettes and minesweepers, Antara news agency reported Sunday. Antara quoted Rear Admiral Tanto Koeswanto as saying the consignments would also include 14 landing ship transports. Foreign defence analysts in Jakarta say the ships will allow the Indonesian navy to play a more effective role in the waters around the archipelago.

#### Japan reports epilepsy from video games

TOKYO (R) — Japanese hospitals have reported at least a dozen cases in which children had epileptic fits while playing computer video games, the daily Tokyo Shimbun said Sunday. The Citizen's Hospital in the northern city of Niigata said doctors had treated 10 such patients aged between 10 and 15 since 1985. Another hospital in northern Miyagi prefecture had reported two cases since 1988, Tokyo Shimbun said. Britain recently launched an inquiry into whether children could suffer epileptic fits from playing computer games after two boys in Cardiff had seizures. Japan's Health Ministry said last week that it would investigate the effects of computer games.

#### Broadcast of Noriega phone calls probed

MIAMI (R) — A U.S. grand jury is investigating Cable News Network (CNN) in connection with its 1990 broadcast of Manuel Noriega's telephone calls from prison, a Miami newspaper reported Saturday. Special prosecutor Robert Dunlap has subpoenaed two CNN staff members, demanding they produce tapes and other information about the telecast, the Miami Herald reported. A CNN spokeswoman confirmed the existence of the subpoena, which seeks tapes of the network's Noriega telecasts from Nov. 9 and 10, 1990, but declined to identify the two staff members, the newspaper reported. The probe surrounds a dispute between the Atlanta-based television network and U.S. Judge William Hoelzer, who presided over Mr. Noriega's drug trial. Mr. Hoelzer had ordered CNN to refrain from broadcasting the taped conversations between Mr. Noriega and his lawyers. The leaking of the tapes raised the question of whether prosecutors had realised an unfair advantage over the deposed Panamanian dictator by learning his defence strategy. Last year Mr. Noriega was found guilty of cocaine trafficking and is serving a 40-year prison sentence.

#### Mobutu official dies in Zairean unrest

KINSHASA (R) — A senior official of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko's party died Saturday, the second day of a mass campaign to depose the army-backed ruler. Members of Mr. Mobutu's Popular Revolutionary Movement (MPR) said the party's secretary-general, Makobu Bidimo, was stabbed and kicked to death by an anti-Mobutu crowd in Kinshasa. Opposition sources said he was threatened by the crowd, but died of an asthma attack as he tried to flee. The Sacred Union opposition alliance has declared a week of civil disobedience and an indefinite general strike in a campaign to oust Mr. Mobutu. The country's interim parliament Thursday declared Mr. Mobutu guilty of high treason and gave him eight days to answer accusations he was blocking moves to multi-party democracy or face trial in Zaire's supreme court.

#### Cuba: No concessions for better U.S. ties

HAVANA (R) — Cuba will not make any concessions in its political principles to restore normal relations with the United States, Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon has said. "We are not going to make the slightest concession towards a country that is in an illegal position," Mr. Alarcon said in an interview carried by the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina. He added U.S. hostility towards Cuba and a longstanding U.S. economic embargo against the communist-ruled island were "abnormal" in terms of international law. Cuban-U.S. relations, which have been hostile for more than 30 years, would return to normal "from the moment the U.S. treats Cuba as a sovereign and independent state," Mr. Alarcon said. He was clearly spelling out on Cuba's position less than a week before Bill Clinton was due to take over the U.S. presidency from George Bush. Cuban President Fidel Castro has said Cuba will never abandon its one-party communist system.

#### Police kill Medellín cartel hitman

BOGOTA (AP) — Police in Medellín shot and killed a leading Medellín drug cartel hitman who was a member of the inner security circle of fugitive drug boss Pablo Escobar, authorities said Saturday. Victor Granada and a group of fellow gunmen travelling in two vehicles exchanged gunfire with members of an elite police force on a street in western Medellín, the city's police department said. Granada was the fifth cartel leader to be killed by the army and police in the past three months. Police records show he was involved in several high-profile assassinations, including the December killing of an intelligence police chief in Medellín. Officials say Mr. Escobar has ordered his men to kill some 90 Medellín policemen since escaping from his luxurious prison last July 22. The drug boss has threatened to step up terrorism unless authorities relax efforts to track him down. There have been some 6,000 house-to-house searches in and around Medellín. So far, the government has kept pressure on Mr. Escobar by targeting his leading hitmen.

#### Bangladesh detains lethal syrup manufacturers

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladesh court has detained two pharmacists for trial for manufacturing a paracetamol syrup which killed hundreds of children, court sources said Sunday. They said Harunur Rashid and Abdur Rab, managing director and director of Polycam Laboratories, Bangladesh, surrendered to a court dealing with drug offences Saturday. They were ordered to be held in custody until their trial. If convicted they face jail sentences of up to 10 years, law officials told reporters. The government last month banned the sale and use of paracetamol syrup after doctors blamed it for widespread renal failure leading to the deaths of hundreds of children. A study by doctors at Dhaka Children's Hospital found that the syrup, a local pharmaceutical product which proved very effective against fever, contained diethylene glycol, harmful to the kidneys.

#### Closure of Filipino-Chinese schools urged

MANILA (R) — A leader of the Filipino-Chinese business community has urged the closure of all Chinese schools in the country to prevent further kidnappings of local Chinese youths, Manila newspapers said Sunday. James Dy, president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the government should suspend classes at the schools for the rest of the academic year ending in March unless it can guarantee an end to kidnappings. Dy made his proposal while talking to reporters Saturday more than a week after 15-year-old Filipino-Chinese school girl Charlene Sy was shot and killed by police in a gunbattle with her kidnappers. Four kidnappers died in the shootout. "At this point, what is important are the lives of the children who might be the next kidnap victim," Mr. Sy was quoted as saying.

### COLUMN

#### Film theatre to install love seats

LONDON (R) — A London cinema plans to install new love seats, complete with cushions, for romantic couples in the back row, a newspaper said Saturday. Ben Freedman, managing director of the Prince Charles Theatre, told the Guardian newspaper the innovation will be ready by Valentine's Day on Feb. 14. "Fifty per cent of people who go to the cinema are out on a date," he said. "So I decided to make it easier for them," he told the newspaper. "And I've decided to make condoms inclusive...you never know what people will get up to in the West End," he added, referring to the capital's entertainment district. Champagne, chocolate and roses will be included in the price of the Valentine's Day ticket, which has not yet been announced.

#### There's gold in them thar trees

TOKYO (R) — Japanese experts say they can pinpoint underground gold deposits by testing the leaves of certain trees for gold content, the daily Tokyo Shimbun reported Sunday. Analysts at the Metal Mining Industry Association, an affiliate of the Trade Ministry, told the daily they had studied the gold content of plants growing above 12 gold mines in Japan. They had found high concentrations of fine, powder gold in the leaves of three kinds of trees — the gromwell, spicebush and Japanese beech, the daily said. Association experts said roots of these plants were able to absorb fine gold dust from underground water. The powder then found its way into the leaves. Inspecting leaves would be much cheaper than random drilling for gold veins, they told the daily. The method could be used to pinpoint veins after a general prospective area had been designated in a geological survey, which normally uses aerial and satellite photographs. The association started its research in 1987 and would continue until next year to collect more data, the newspaper said. It did not say if new gold veins had been discovered using the method.

#### Curator put away for safe keeping

DUBLIN (R) — A former curator of one of Europe's leading collections of Oriental and Islamic art started a five-year jail sentence Friday for stealing manuscripts, paintings and other artefacts from his own museum. David James, 51, pleaded guilty to the theft of artefacts worth about \$730,000 from Dublin's Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art. Mr. James, an expert on Islamic art who had worked for the library for 20 years, was estimated to have made about \$162,000 for himself by selling artefacts to dealers and collectors. Dublin criminal court heard that most of the stolen items had been recovered.

#### Prison course gave forger printing skills

NICE, France (R) — A French forger who perfected his skills in prison has been arrested for printing U.S. banknotes worth more than \$600,000, police said Saturday. The forger, Jacky Lopinot, used a sophisticated colour photocopying machine to print the \$100 and \$50 banknotes. Police said he improved his technique on a printing course while serving a 18-month jail term for forgery in 1991. His teacher was a forger held for producing near-perfect French banknotes worth 40 million francs (\$7 million). Mr. Lopinot, 54, and an accomplice carrying the forged dollars in a bag were detained in the Riviera resort of Nice Friday.

#### Immigration boss fired over missing passports

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — The head of Tanzania's immigration department has been fired in a scandal over 10,000 new passports which were stolen from the Foreign Ministry. A government statement said Ali Mnyika and seven other senior immigration officers had also been sacked pending investigations into the scandal. It said that to date only 10 passports had been recovered and the people who held them had been arrested. Mr. Mnyika himself disclosed Thursday that passports worth \$250,000 had gone missing from a consignment of about 80,000 ordered by the government from its British printers. They were to have been sent to foreign embassies in diplomatic bags. Five people of Somali origin have also been arrested in connection with the theft.

## Clinton nominee pays fine for hiring illegal aliens

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — U.S. Attorney General-nominee Zoe Baird and her husband Saturday paid a \$2,500 fine for employing illegal aliens in their home, a Clinton transition spokesman said.

Communications Director George Stephanopoulos said: "We are pleased the matter is now resolved."

Mr. Stephanopoulos said in a statement that Mr. Clinton "has complete confidence in Zoe Baird, whose disclosures in this matter have been forthright from the beginning."

"And he looks forward to her confirmation and service as attorney general of the United States," he said.

The fine was a civil penalty requested by the Immigration

and Naturalisation Service (INS) paid by Ms. Baird and her husband in connection with the hiring of a babysitter and her husband who did not have authorisation to work in this country.

Revelations of the employment arrangement and failure until recent weeks to pay social security taxes on the couple prompted a call for Ms. Baird's prosecution by House of Representatives Republican whip Newt Gingrich of Georgia.

Mr. Gingrich said Ms. Baird had no business in President-elect Clinton's cabinet.

"Clearly she has crossed the line," he said. "You can't have a person who ought to be prosecuted, serving in the cabinet."

"It is inconceivable to have an attorney general nominee, someone who is sworn to uphold and enforce the nation's laws, doing something like this," Mr. Gingrich said.

If confirmed, Ms. Baird would oversee the (INS), which enforces the 1986 immigration reform and control act. The law carries civil penalties of up to \$3,000 per count for businesses and individuals who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

While the penalties for immigration violations are relatively small, the penalty for social security tax violations can involve fines of up to \$100,000 and prison terms.

"It is clear that we are creating a double standard where

such actions can cause a small business owner to face jail or bankruptcy, but allow Mrs. Baird to become attorney general," Mr. Gingrich said.

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have said they doubt the disclosure will derail Mrs. Baird's confirmation to head the Justice Department.

A spokesman for Sen. Trent Lott, (Republican-Mississippi), who is coordinating Republican scrutiny of all Clinton nominees in the Senate, said Friday that Republicans were prepared to question Mr. Baird on the issue but that, depending on her answers, it probably would not be disqualifying.

"I think it'll be an issue,"

spokesman Bruce Lott said. "It may not be a killer issue."

An attorney for Mr. Baird, Thomas H. Belote, said he advised her and her husband that she was unlikely to be fined for what he called a technical violation of federal immigration law. His letter was released by Clinton transition officials.

Ms. Baird is general counsel of Aetna Life and Casualty Co. in New Haven. Her husband, Paul Gewirtz, is a law professor at Yale.

The Peruvian couple no longer works for Ms. Baird and Mr. Gewirtz. The man left his work as a driver for Ms. Baird last March, and the woman left after the election in November.

## Bush ready to 'shift gears' in four days

CAMP DAVID, Maryland (Agencies) — President George Bush said Saturday he was not bitter or resentful over leaving the White House and was ready to "shift gears" in a few days and be a private citizen again.

"There's no point in trying to continue something that isn't," he said of his presidency, which has three more days to run before President-elect Bill Clinton is inaugurated Wednesday.

"And I'm trying to conduct myself with dignity, and hopefully in a spirit of total cooperation with Governor Clinton," Mr. Bush said, adding: "No bitterness in my heart."

The president made his comments to reporters at the Camp David, Maryland, presidential retreat. He and his wife Barbara were spending their final weekend at the presidential retreat with visiting Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his family.

Mr. Mulroney had just arrived in a helicopter and was standing beside Mr. Bush as he spoke while Mrs. Bush, Mr. Mulroney's wife Milla, and three of the Mulroneys' children lingered nearby. "January 20, when I walk out of that Capitol, I'm a private citizen. And I hope I'll be treated as a private citizen," Mr. Bush told reporters.

"I'm not looking to sit at the head table. I'm not looking to have press conferences," he said. "We're gonna really shift gears like that."

Mr. Bush was certain to have to spend at least part of his last weekend working on the situation in Iraq. He said he would consult with Mr. Mulroney and other Gulf war allies as well as the United Nations on an offer from Iraq of conditional safe passage for U.N. planes.

But there was some time in the schedule for relaxing with Mr. Mulroney, a good friend of the

president, and his family. Mrs. Bush, who spoke to reporters before the Mulroneys arrived, said they would "visit and bowl" at Camp David's bowling alley.

Several U.S. Supreme Court judges were scheduled to drop in to see the president. And a country-western singer, George Strait, was to provide the evening's entertainment.

After Mr. Clinton's inauguration Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. Bush leave Washington for their home in Houston. But unlike a number of former presidents, Mr. Bush was not taking a pool of reporters with him on his plane home.

"On Jan. 20, I'm through with press pools," he said. "It shifts over to the new president."

But Mrs. Bush, who has said she thought the media were biased against her husband during the campaign, offered reporters a different insight into why they were not invited on the trip out of Washington.

"Maybe we'll take all those people who were for us," she joked.

The White House personnel chief, Constance Hornet, sent a message to more than 500 top Bush appointees Thursday telling them that they, too, were finished at noon on inauguration day. Mr. Clinton's transition team had hoped to keep some on, at least temporarily.

While Mr. Clinton's inaugural festivities commence in the capital on Sunday, the Bushes will stay holed away here atop the Catocotn Mountains until Monday evening.

Mrs. Bush, clad in her own snow parka against the sub-freezing chill, sat in a golf cart and reflected on Wednesday's move to Houston.

"I'm looking forward to going home," she said. "I didn't like losing, but I'm looking forward to going home. In fact, my head is there right now."

## 'Royal tapes' in full in British newspapers

LONDON (AP) — Two Sunday tabloids published full transcripts of an intimate, taped conversation allegedly between Prince Charles and an ex-girlfriend.

The Sunday Mirror and the People are the latest newspapers to reveal all. The transcript first appeared last week in the Australian magazine New Idea. Three Irish and two British newspapers followed suit.

Buckingham Palace has refused to comment on the transcript, which reportedly captured Prince Charles murmuring bedtime endearments via portable telephone to Camilla Parker Bowles.

Sunday Mirror Editor Colin Myler, in a page two statement headlined "your right to know," saw that the future king's royal subjects deserved to know the details of the titillating bedtime exchange.

"I believe it is wrong that the near nine million readers of this newspaper should be denied the right to read something so important affecting the future king of England, when people in Australia, Germany, America and Ireland already have."

"Yes, I will be criticised. Yes, I will be damned, but why should the people of Britain be treated with such hypocrisy and contempt?"

The people started its transcript on the front-page, with the headline: "Read the royal love tape in full."

In an editorial, the newspaper pointed to widespread circulation of the transcript in some circles.

## UNHCR envoy slams Cambodia peace force

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — United Nations goodwill ambassador Barbara Hendricks has urged peacekeepers in Cambodia to get tough on ceasefire violations or pull out.

Ms. Hendricks, one of the world's leading opera singers — told reporters that visits to mine-clearing sites, refugee centres and resettlement areas and talks with Cambodians had convinced her the people's main fear was the U.N. force's inability to provide adequate security.

"My own personal feeling is that if we're going to have a U.N. military presence they have got to have some authority and stop the ceasefire violations; otherwise, I mean, it's really a farce," she said.

Ms. Hendricks, an American, is an envoy for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"If we can't do it here (achieve peace)...we can't do it anywhere. We might as well close down the house and give money back," she said, referring to the \$2 billion price tag on the mission of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The U.N.-sponsored peace agreement signed in Paris in 1991 by all four rival Cambodian factions paved the way for the 22,000-strong UNTAC force to supervise the running of the country until elections scheduled for next May at the latest.

But the ambitious accord has been lurching from one crisis to another because of the armed intransigence of the hardline Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction and an increasing wave of political violence sweeping the country.

Ms. Hendricks said UNTAC's inability to deal with the dual problems worried her.

"That is really one of things that concerns me most: Their (UNTAC) inability or unwillingness — I don't know which it is —

to really deal very forcefully with those ceasefire violations," she said.

"I can't say where the problem is but I can say it's not being done."

Ms. Hendricks, a goodwill envoy for 12 years, said her next opera performance would be to sing at the inauguration concert for U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton on Jan. 19.

She said she hoped to be able to talk to Mr. Clinton to voice her concerns about Cambodia directly to him.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali plans to visit Cambodia in February to lend moral support to the fragile U.N. peacekeeping operation, the United Nations announced.

A U.N. statement said Dr. Ghali revealed his plans to Hor Nam Hong, a member of Cambodia's interim, Supreme National Council and foreign minister of the Phnom Penh government.

"They expressed their hope that the difficulties created by one of the political parties would be overcome," the statement said in an obvious reference to the Khmer Rouge.

No precise dates were given but U.N. sources thought the visit would take place early in February and be followed by a visit to Japan.

#### Remains identified

Human remains dug up in Cambodia last year have been identified as those of an American correspondent who disappeared 23 years ago while covering the war in southeast Asia, a National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) official said Saturday.

Welles Hanger's remains were positively identified Friday night by the U.S. Army central identification laboratory in Honolulu, said Arthur Lord, a senior producer for NBC News.